# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

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## Arab-Israeli Talks

### Agreement on Early Empowerment Initialed in Cairo

#### News Conference Reported

*NC2408201194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1958 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] Cairo, 24 Aug (MENA)—An agreement on the early transfer of powers in the West Bank to the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] was initialed in Cairo this evening.

The agreement was initialed for the Palestinian side by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the PNA, and for the Israeli side by Dani Rothschild, general coordinator of the territories' affairs.

Under the agreement, the powers of education, culture, health, tourism, social affairs, taxation, budget, and sports and youth in the West Bank are being handed over to the Palestinians.

The initialing of the agreement was delayed for several hours; it was scheduled to take place at 1900 Cairo time [1600 GMT].

Sources familiar with the negotiations said the delay was because the Palestinian side paused at the wording of some points. Dr. Sha'th telephoned Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to obtain his approval for the wording.

After initialing the early empowerment agreement, Dr. Sha'th and General Rothschild held a news conference. Dr. Sha'th described the negotiations as difficult, especially in the final round and the last hours. "Our objective was to end those negotiations today, whether we liked it or not," he said.

Sha'th said the agreement, although small, is a step toward linking Gaza and Jericho with the West Bank. The next step, he said, will be negotiations on holding legislative elections in the West Bank.

Dr. Sha'th said that today's agreement is a continuation of the practical steps toward the implementation of the Declaration of Principles, which the two sides signed in September, and under which the Palestinian authority will be extended to the rest of the West Bank after Gaza and Jericho.

He said an agreement was reached for an early empowerment in the International Cooperation Department, which he chairs.

For his part, Rothschild said the atmosphere of the talks was extremely good despite the difficulties. He said practical results will be very apparent and that the future will prove that we were right when we started our peace moves.

He said the final signing of the agreement will take place after the Israeli Cabinet and the Palestinian National Authority endorse it. Dr. Sha'th said the same thing when he commented on Rothschild statement.

Dr. Sha'th said the donor states will meet on 9 September, which will be followed by a three-day Palestinian-Israeli meeting to set a timetable for the transfer of the powers mentioned in the agreement.

He added: Every step we take creates a new reality. Today we received all Palestinian schools in the West Bank, and after that we will receive the powers of tourism, culture, health, taxation, social affairs, and youths and sports.

Asked about Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement that the agreement will not result in a major change because there is Israeli civilian power, Sha'th said every step we make changes the situation and that this actually happened in Gaza and Jericho.

Sha'th said the technical problems concerning the opening of the safe corridor have been solved. The corridor is now open and international passages will soon be opened, he said.

The initialing of the agreement was attended by an official from the American Embassy and one from the Russian Embassy in Cairo.

#### Rothschild Interviewed on Agreement

*TA2508090594 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Aug 94*

[Telephone interview with Major General Dani Rothschild, head of the Israeli delegation to the early empowerment talks in Cairo, by Netan'el Semrik on 24 August; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Rothschild] The agreement on early empowerment authorizes the Palestinians to arrange taxation, send tax appraisals, and levy taxes. These powers refer to the Palestinian residents of Judaea and Samaria. The Palestinians received full powers in this sphere.

[Semrik] Will Israel play a part in or at least supervise taxation of the Palestinians during the first few months?

[Rothschild] Certainly. The Palestinians realize they have to establish a taxation system, and we will help them in terms of data, computer programs, and training with a view to enabling them to establish a taxation system by the end of the six months stipulated in the agreement.

[Semrik] For the time being, this agreement is merely a piece of paper, because it lacks the financial backing for implementation on the ground.

[Rothschild] Correct. Financing this agreement is a rather complicated business, because the implementation of the five spheres involves heavy expenses. Consequently, we decided to approach the donors together and ask them to provide the funds the Palestinians themselves will not be able to cover during the first six months. We hope the donors will agree to this request.

[Semrik] What sum is involved?

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[Rothschild] The five spheres will require a little under $60 million during the first six months. We believe that the Palestinians will be able to cover slightly less than 50 percent of this sum, so we are talking about contributions to the tune of $30 million to enable the Palestinians to manage the five spheres.

[Semrik] Do the Israelis and Palestinians think it is possible to raise this sum within the next few weeks?

[Rothschild] Yes. The donor committee will convene between 8 and 10 September, and we sincerely hope they will make this decision.

[Semrik] Maj. Gen. Rothschild, do you share the assessment that there is an overlap of authority in the West Bank, in this heterogeneous area which includes IDF [Israel Defense Forces] installations, Jewish settlements, and Arab towns?

[Rothschild] There is certainly no overlap of authority. Israel remains the authority on the ground, whereas the Palestinians will provide functional services to the Palestinian residents in the five spheres we handed over to them. These services will be provided on a personal basis. Wherever a Palestinian resident seeks education or health services, these will be provided by the Palestinian Authority.

[Semrik] Maj. Gen. Rothschild, does the agreement specifically state that the Palestinian powers do not relate nor will they relate in the future to Jerusalem and the settlements?

[Rothschild] Certainly. The agreement specifically states—as does the Declaration of Principles—that the powers do not relate to Israelis, the settlements, or Jerusalem.

### Musa Welcomes Early Empowerment Deal

*NC2408145994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt views the agreement for early empowerment of the Palestinians in the West Bank, which will be concluded this evening, as an important, major and natural step that follows the first one of establishing the Palestinian National Authority in Gaza and Jericho. He noted that the transfer of powers to the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank in the fields of education, health, and other domains is a step toward reaching a final settlement, which should take all the outstanding issues into consideration.

Musa added that Egypt hopes that this step will be followed by others enabling the Palestinian Authority to develop its administration of the self-rule territories and move steadily toward a final settlement that takes into account the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. He pointed out that the agreement will be initialed today while the final agreement will be signed at the Erez checkpoint.

Musa noted that Egypt's position regarding Jerusalem has not changed: specifically, that an agreement on its final status is yet to be agreed upon. The status of Jerusalem, he added, will be determined during the final negotiations.

[In a related report, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1355 GMT on 24 August adds in a Cairo-datelined item: "Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority and head of the delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli talks, has stated that the agreement for the early empowerment of the Palestinians in the West Bank will be initialed at 1800 [1500 GMT] or 1900 this evening. He added that the agreement provides for the transfer of powers in the fields of education, culture, health, taxes, social affairs, tourism, budget, youth, and sports. He described the agreement as a historic step in the peace process."]

### Israel Hands Over Education Powers in Ramallah

*TA2408124394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Excerpt] Israel handed over control of education in Ramallah to the Palestinian Authority today. By Monday, the Palestinians are expected to assume authority over education in all Palestinian population centers throughout the West Bank. Education is one of five areas Palestinians are due to control in the territories under early empowerment. More from No'omi Segal:

[Begin recording] [Segal] From today, the Palestinian Authority is responsible for education in Ramallah. Tomorrow it takes over education in Nabulus and Janin, and on Sunday in Bethlehem and Hebron. The transfer of education from Israel's Civil Administration to the Palestinian Authority is expected to be completed by August 29th. From then on, the Palestinian Authority will be responsible for the some 15,000 teachers and 600,000 students in the West Bank. The Palestinians expect tax revenues to cover salaries for educators, while such development projects as building new facilities would be funded by international donors. Dr. Na'im Abu-Khumus, the director general of education in the Palestinian Authority, says international aid is needed now more than ever.

[Abu-Khumus] I think all the donor countries should stand beside us to give us the opportunity to run the education system.

[Segal] The school curriculum which is currently Jordanian-based in the West Bank and Egyptian-based in Gaza is not expected to undergo any immediate changes, but when school opens next week, some students say there will be a serious difference. [passage omitted] [end recording]

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## Palestinian Affairs

### PNC Said To Convene To Annul Charter Articles

*TA2408124194 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 22 Aug 94 p 1*

[Text] A senior Palestinian source stated the Palestine National Council [PNC] will be convened at the beginning of October and that an invitation will be extended to all the PNC members to attend the new session that will be held in Gaza and in which articles from the National Charter will be annulled.

### Al-Ta'marin Says No Need To Amend Covenant

*TA2508100994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 25 Aug 94*

[Text] Salah al-Ta'mari, a member of the Palestine National Council and the man who stood at the head of the Palestinian prisoners in the Ansar camp in Lebanon, says there is no need to change the Palestinian Covenant clauses. Al-Ta'mari, who returned to Jericho yesterday after 28 years in exile, told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that he recognizes Israel, adding that the opposition to changing the Palestinian Covenant clauses in no way detracts from the Palestinians' determination to achieve peace.

### FIDA Against Convening PNC, Amending Charter

*TA2408125394 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 23 Aug 94 p 5*

[Excerpts] Amman, QUDS PRESS—A Palestinian party participating in the Palestinian Authority Council administering self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho has declared that it objects to convening a new Palestine National Council [PNC] session to change articles in the Palestinian Charter. 'Isam 'Abd-al-Latif, official spokesman of FIDA [Palestinian Democratic Union], described the invitation to convene the PNC as "premature" and attributed this to "the current political situation." [passage omitted]

In a related development, the Palestinian spokesman said that his party "is opposed to amending the Charter because Israel has not fulfilled its commitments as stipulated in the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles." He added: "It is unfair to demand the Palestinian side to unilaterally adhere" to the agreements reached between the Palestinians and Israel. He described Israel's demand to convene the PNC in a bid to annul articles from the Palestinian Charter as "blackmail," and noted that this annulment constitutes "part of an integral agreement."

### Terms for Convocation of PNC Noted

*TA2408174594 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 23 Aug 94 p 13*

[Editorial: "An Extremely Difficult Step"]

[Text] It has been observed during the past few days that the Palestinian-Israeli talks are witnessing noticeable foot-dragging by the Israelis in putting the last touches on more than one agreement. Its as if they are waiting or expecting yet another Palestinian concession before taking the remaining few steps toward announcing an agreement.

Statements by senior Israeli officials indicate the next Palestinian concession is to annul the articles relating to Israel in the Palestinian National Charter. Keep in mind that there is real disagreement between the two sides over the timing of those articles' annulment.

Israel is claiming that the peace process has made considerable progress and that this step has become necessary before further steps are taken. Whereas, the Palestinian side believes the time is still not ripe for annulling those articles, which must remain a bargaining chip in the hands of the Palestinians as a guarantee for obtaining all their legitimate national rights.

On the other hand, the Israeli side has failed to provide a suitable climate for convening a Palestine National Council [PNC] session, since as Palestinian sources have confirmed, some PNC members are still being banned from entering the Palestinian Authority areas in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. Thus, the meetings might lack a quorum.

At any rate, it is clear that the Israeli side is pressuring the Palestinians to take this strategic step. Some of the means sometimes used by the Israeli side is the tactic of foot-dragging in the talks, and at other times postponing implementation of what has been agreed on; such as opening the secure crossings and giving the Palestinian side a role in control over the Allenby Bridge and the Rafah crossing. In addition, the Israeli side has left open the issue of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

The assumption or the logic is that embarking on a step of such a magnitude must be preceded by a complete Palestinian conviction that the peace process has borne all its fruits through Israel's recognition of the legitimate Palestinian rights. The most important of which are an independent state—with Jerusalem as its capital—and the removal of settlements. Therefore, it seems appropriate that the step be a crowning of the peace process upon its completion, or when the Palestinians become convinced that the process is about to be completed in favor of their aspirations and just demands.

### Israeli Call for PNC Session Said 'Interference'

*JN2408202294 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] We have said over and over that the Israelis have neither the will nor the disposition to make things easy for Palestinian negotiators. If anything, they are going out of their way to throw obstacles in the path of the

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Palestinians as they strive to build a national homeland and an independent state of their own with Jerusalem as its capital. Israel's intentions are made clear in the negotiations on the transfer of civilian powers to the Palestinians in the areas of education, health, social affairs, and taxation. It is as if the Israelis are not about to voluntarily cede the Palestinian National Authority's [PNA] right to run the day-to-day affairs of the Palestinian people free from intrusion by the occupation regime. Nor are the Israelis willing to let the PNA provide services to the steadfast people who are holding out on their land.

It would seem from news reports about the agreement on the transfer of civilian powers that Israeli leaders are keeping up their attempts to wear out the PNA and drown it in internal complications, the latest being Israel's blatant interference in Palestinian constitutional affairs by demanding that the Palestine National Council [PNC] be called into session to abrogate or amend certain articles in the National Charter. Israel has gone so far as to demand that a link be established between the flow of international aid to the PNA and a PNC session to revoke some of the Council's articles. Israel's fondness for fallacies knows no limits. The Israelis should have read the Declaration of Principles as a prelude to a provisional political agreement rather than a definitive peace treaty under which Israel would dictate terms to the Palestinians. When to call a PNC session is a matter for the PNA and its constitutional bodies to decide. In short, this is a purely Palestinian business and an independent Palestinian decision that should be impervious to Israel's or any other nation's wishes. When to call a PNC session is something determined by the requirements of the Palestinian fight for freedom and independence, a fact the Israeli occupiers would do well to bear in mind.

## 'Arafat Vows Jerusalem To Remain Arab

*JN2508082494 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Aug 94 pp 1, 21*

[Text] QUDS PRESS—Gaza—Yasir 'Arafat, PLO leader and head of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], has urged Palestinians to maintain national unity. In a speech at Bayt Lahya Secondary School, 'Arafat said the Palestinians were facing the challenge of building the Palestinian state. All eyes are on us to see whether we will make it, 'Arafat said, and stressed that the Palestinians will succeed. There has been a universal bet placed on Palestinian disunity, but the unity he now sees embodies the Palestinian will, the PLO leader said.

'Arafat announced that he had ordered Palestinian experts in the field of education to look for ways to make up for seven scholastic years lost by Palestinian children. The repeated closure of schools by the Israeli occupation authorities during the intifadah led to classes in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip being held in fits and starts.

The Palestinian leader said the Palestinian national authority is contemplating a reorganization of the Gaza Strip. The new plan envisages turning Bayt Lahya in north Gaza from a village into a city. The PNA will take into account such basic factors as growth, expansion in the building sector, and population density. He stressed that Jerusalem will remain Arab, whatever the feelings of others.

## 'Arafat Plans for Gaza Air, Sea Ports Progressing

*TA2408142094 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (MAMON supplement) in Hebrew 24 Aug 94 p 2*

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Text] Construction work of the Gaza international airport will begin in October. This was reported by Yasir 'Arafat who added that, being a civil engineer by profession, he will personally head the supervision and construction team.

The airport is designed for small cargo planes who can carry up to 50 passengers. The airlines will also travel to Arab countries.

A landing strip for light aircraft is currently being built in Jericho, with the aid of a French firm. Initial inspections of the ground and weather conditions at the site have already been held.

The PLO owns four helicopters that 'Arafat received as a gift from Iraq, but they are not operational at the moment. Israel demands that they be registered as civilian aircraft, as required by international law, before they can be used.

The PLO wishes to register them in Egypt, but this requires paying for insurance policies as well as for bringing them up to international standards—and for now, there is no money for this.

'Arafat, however, does not only dream of an airport. Last week he spoke of the construction of a floating sea port in Gaza which will spare the residents of the autonomy from the need to use the Egyptian Alexandria Port or the Rafah border crossing.

Like his economic experts, 'Arafat wishes to as much as possible separate the Palestinian from the Israeli economy, including its air and seaports. "Israel is restricting Gaza imports and exports, which is why we need our own airport and naval port," 'Arafat said.

The port will be built by Italian, Dutch, and French companies with a $60 million investment. The agreement on the construction of the port was signed last week by representatives of the foreign companies and Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Hajj Ahmad, in charge of transportation in the autonomy.

According to al-Hajj Ahmad, construction works of the port will begin in three months and he hopes they will end a year later.

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## Ghawshah on 'Arafat Anti-Hamas Campaign

*JN2408172194 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 23-29 Aug 94 pp 32-29*

[Interview with Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah by Ra'id al-Najjar in Amman—date not given]

[Text] [Al-Najjar] What do you have to say about the recent arrests by the self-rule authority among Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] ranks?

[Ghawshah] The campaign against Hamas began immediately following the heroic jihad operations which extended from Jerusalem to the Gaza Strip. As expected, these operations, during which one settler was killed and 15 others were wounded, resulted in Jewish public opinion bringing pressure to bear on Rabin, who immediately put pressure on 'Arafat. Following this, 'Arafat called for an urgent Palestinian authority meeting which lasted late into the night. At this meeting, decisions were made to confront the Hamas Movement. These decisions were translated into facts with the arrest of 45 activists closely linked with Hamas. The Palestinian authority resorted to two methods with those arrested. It adopted a flexible approach with the leaders such as Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, Isma'il Hilmi, Muhsin Abu-'Aytah and others while it was more tough with the younger elements. It arrested the leaders for 20 hours. I believe 10 of our brothers are still in prison. The arrests did not stop. The Zionists commented on these campaigns by saying the arrests are just to throw dust in the eyes, or that they are for political reasons and not real arrests. When Peres met Nabil Sha'th in Alexandria, he gave him a message urging more stringent measures against Hamas. The second day, Peres visited Gaza and met with 'Arafat and discussed with him the issue of security and Hamas' operations. 'Arafat started to change his tone following this meeting. After commenting that the operations were irresponsible, he commented again in the presence of Peres by saying he will stalk the extremists, who should be pursued by both sides, and that he is meticulously applying the Cairo and Oslo agreement. Before this, he met with Ram Cohen from Meretz and announced that he will prevent Hamas terrorism. He thus described the jihad operations Hamas carries out as terrorist and pledged to prevent this terrorism.

One can see from reports received from the occupied territories that Ghazi al-Jabali, Muhammad Dahlan, and others who have interrogated the brother detainees have conveyed to them threatening messages from 'Arafat asking them to immediately suspend jihad operations, particularly in the self-rule area because these operations hamper the negotiations between the self-rule authority and the Zionist government and the plans to expand the self-rule area to other areas in the West Bank. Regrettably, very bad methods were used in the interrogation of the brothers and in the way the arrests were made.

Most of the arrests took place after midnight and before dawn. Those who participated in the arrests were elements from the police, the preventive security, and the intelligence. Regrettably, most of these elements used to be Fatah Hawks. They were ordered to storm the houses of their comrades-in-arms who used to fight with them in the Gaza Strip. Some of them were blindfolded, others were put in latrines. Psychological, moral, and physical pressures were exerted on them. If we take these practices and 'Arafat's clear statements into consideration, we will realize that 'Arafat began a systematic plan to impose his hegemony and control over Hamas. As Shaykh Isma'il Haniyah said, it is painful to see that jihad against the Zionist enemy in the Gush Qatif settlements has become terrorism in 'Arafat's opinion. This is the same charge which used to be brought against him during his past struggle against the Zionist enemy. It is painful to accuse Hamas of this while it was the one which opened its heart to the Palestinian police and the Palestinian [National] Authority [PNA], and shared with them the food of its children. Had it not been for the struggle of the sons of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions and the Hamas Movement, they would not have been able to enter Gaza. This shows that 'Arafat began to gradually turn from a national struggler into an obedient tool in the hands of the occupation. In light of this, we stress that if 'Arafat continues to respond to the Rabin and Peres policy of arresting Palestinians and collecting their weapons, and to confront the al-Qassam Battalions, he will turn himself into a new general in southern Palestine. This general is called general 'Arafat, similar to the agent general, Israel's obedient tool in southern Lebanon, Antoine Lahd.

[Al-Najjar] Some people say that through these operations, Hamas is trying to foil and obstruct the gains of the self-rule authority, and that this could lead to an intra-Palestinian fighting and foment a sedition inside the occupied territories. What is your comment?

[Ghawshah] 'Arafat, who went to Madrid and paved the way for the other Arab states to go to Madrid too, knows full well that a big sector of the Palestinian people reject self-rule. This sector, without exaggeration, is not less than half of the Palestinian people. The question which we ask is who put the Palestinian people in the trap? Is it Hamas or 'Arafat who relinquished the land of Palestine and the Palestinian people's right to liberation and repatriation to the land of their fathers and grandfathers? Moreover, we want to ask: How did Hamas deal with the Oslo agreement? In its dealing with the Oslo agreement, Hamas showed a high sense of responsibility in the full sense of the word. It announced that it will continue its jihad operations and resistance against the Zionist occupation and settlement. This is a legitimate right recognized by all the divine and man-made laws, the UN and human rights principles, and all the just laws which give the right to any nation to fight and resist occupation regardless of the nature of this occupation. This Hamas line was clear. The other line is that Hamas will resist the self-rule agreements on the popular and political levels so long as 'Arafat and his group continue to encroach on the Hamas' right to resist the occupation. These facts were very clear to 'Arafat and the Fatah Movement

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which supports 'Arafat, taking into consideration that many of the honest Fatah cadres refuse to be tools in the hands of the Zionist occupation after they have offered thousands of martyrs on the road to liberation. So, what happened is that Hamas adhered to its line and field confrontations did not take place with the authority, taking into consideration that the Hamas Movement could have prevented the entry of the self-rule authority and obstructed the entry of the Palestinian police force from the first day. It also could have obstructed the negotiations from day one. This is something known to 'Arafat himself and to every wise man. However, Hamas refused to choose the path which would lead to Palestinian internecine fighting. Now, who is the one who has paved the way for internecine fighting? Is it Hamas which is struggling against the Zionist occupation, or 'Arafat who has responded fully to Peres and Rabin, and begun to arrest the mujahidin and the honest symbols of the Hamas Movement, and to pursue the al-Qassam Battalions? Do not 'Arafat and his group know how much the Palestinian people love the al-Qassam Battalions thanks to which the Palestinian people are holding their heads high.

How will the Palestinian people react if 'Arafat should target these mujahidin. Will he be left to apprehend them and then hand them over to occupation troops? The Palestinians are a worthy people of mujahidin who will not allow 'Arafat to play this role.

Regarding the contention that Hamas is taking away gains 'Arafat allegedly has made from self-rule, this does not stand to scrutiny. The self-rule has been in place three months and 'Arafat has been in Gaza and Jericho one and a half months. What has 'Arafat done to help the Palestinian people in the interim?

Has he ended unemployment or sorted out labor problems? Has he done anything to ease the deteriorating economic conditions? Has he alleviated the pain of the people? Has he injected the Palestinian economy with any of the PLO's funds, of which he has billions [currency not specified]? Instead, he is blaming donor nations. He has only recently realized that these are unfair terms. He keeps saying he is being humiliated and insulted. Who pushed him into signing the humiliating and disgraceful terms of the Oslo and Cairo agreements?

To those who claim that the West Bank will be turned over to them, I would suggest that they listen to Rabin's statement at a news conference in Jordan that there will be no such withdrawal, but redeployment only.

The areas that will come under the jurisdiction of the self-rule authority are virtual cantons or protectorates in densely populated areas in the Gaza Strip. As for the West Bank it will remain under the control of the Zionist enemy. The Zionist enemy said that it will not allow the demarcation of the border between the Dead Sea and al-'Aqabah before the Jordanians approve the demarcation of borders between the Dead Sea and Bisan—the border between the West Bank and the East Bank. In other words, the border areas will remain under Zionist occupation. The Zionists will be the ones to define the borders. These are the facts.

We would like to ask: Who said that Hamas has ever consented to call a halt to its jihad action, whether in the West Bank or Jerusalem or in the part of Palestine occupied since 1948, or even in the self-rule area? Is the Gaza Strip now completely liberated? Forty percent of the Gaza Strip remains under occupation, with 16 settlements still in place. Thus, as long as there is occupation, resistance is legitimate. Hamas has made it clear often enough that jihad is a religious, nationalist, and political duty. There is no power on earth to stop Hamas from jihad. When the occupation force, the most powerful in the region, was still in Gaza it could do nothing to halt the operations of the mujahidin. We are confident that neither the Palestinian police nor the Palestinian authority nor 'Arafat or Sha'th or Nasr Yusuf will be able to curb a mujahid should he decide to sacrifice himself in God's cause. We would tell them: Beware of miscalculating, and if you should drag the Palestinians into fighting among themselves, you will bear the responsibility. We are confident that the Palestinian people will take the side of their mujahid forces. 'Arafat and his group will remain subordinate to Zionist occupation just as Lahd forces in south Lebanon are vis-a-vis the Zionist enemy.

[Al-Najjar] What about the PNA's demand that Hamas collect and surrender all its weapons?

[Ghawshah] Collecting weapons from the Palestinian people, including Hamas, will be a criminal and treasonous act because the settlers and the occupation army are still carrying arms and are killing Palestinians everywhere. The blood of those martyred in the Ibrahimi Mosque, Nabulus, Jerusalem, and Gaza is still remembered. So, why are weapons to be withdrawn at this particular time? Is it to disarm people in order to be killed and displaced by the Zionists? This step amounts to treason, which the Palestinian people will never accept and for which 'Arafat and his clique will be responsible. The 'Izz-al-Din Al-Qassam's weapon is sacred and baptized with the blood of the strugglers. To al-Qassam, every piece of weapon has a history. It is not for weddings or other occasions. It is used to fight the usurper. Therefore, Hamas has announced that it will not surrender a single weapon. He who wants to take our weapons by force will bear the responsibility. Hamas warns 'Arafat and his group, and it believes that the Palestinian policemen showed nationalism and honor during their confrontations of the occupation forces. We warn 'Arafat against igniting the fire of sedition. Cursed be the one who ignites sedition. Those who ignite it up will pay the price. Time will prove that our Palestinian people and most of the Palestinian police will support the strugglers and confront 'Arafat if he continues to pursue this path. We urge him to ally himself with the people and not with Peres and Rabin.

[Al-Najjar] Will Hamas move its operations when the self-rule covers the West Bank?

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[Ghawshah] These agreements cannot stop struggle. Hamas and the al-Qassam Battalions believe that wherever there is occupation, there should be legitimate resistance. Operations in Gaza can stop only if the Zionists dismantle their settlements and completely leave the Gaza Strip, but they will continue in other occupied Palestinian territories. We in Hamas consider Palestine an indivisible entity. All of Palestine is a holy land, and struggle will cover every inch of it. We assert that Hamas has not committed itself, either orally or in writing, that it will stop its operations inside the self-rule area. It is no secret that 'Arafat sent some mediators to convince Hamas to halt its operations in the self-rule area. Hamas rejected that and insisted on its position.

[Al-Najjar] There is a proposal that if Hamas wants to maintain the Palestinian people's unity and to end bloodshed, it has to move its operations from the self-rule area to other areas, where Zionists live in large numbers, like the areas taken in 1948.

[Ghawshah] He who makes such a proposal is a defeated person because he is contented with the self-rule and with the Zionist hegemony. This proposal would have been discussed if there had been a full liberation. We said that the so-called PNA is not an authority at all because it has no power. Nor is it national because it has abandoned the homeland. Therefore, such a proposal can be made only by a defeated person recognizing the Zionist occupation. It is Hamas which decides when and where it will carry out its operations whether in the 1948 areas, Jerusalem, the West Bank, or Gaza Strip. Conscientious people are upset when they see patrols between Palestinians in Gaza and their Zionist hangmen. This humiliating coexistence, imposed by 'Arafat on the Palestinian people, is rejected by conscientious people, nationalists, and Islamists. The field leadership may ease or step up its struggle in a certain area from time to time but cannot ban struggle under the pretext that it violates Palestinian sovereignty. Where is that Palestinian sovereignty? There is no sovereignty over the land, even under the existing agreements. They want to kill the spirit of struggle and quell what is left of the intifadah. We, in Hamas, believe that as long as there is a Zionist occupation, the operations and intifadah will not stop.

## Al-Wazir: Unemployment 'Most Serious Challenge'

*JN2508071994 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Aug 94 p 19*

[Text] Nabulus, the occupied West Bank, QUDS PRESS—Intisar al-Wazir, alias Umm-Jihad, minister of social affairs at the Self-Rule Authority, has said the Palestinian Authority has decided to start disbursing allocations to the families of martyrs as of September and to start a program to rehabilitate the released Palestinian prisoners as of 1 October.

In a visit to Nabulus, her first to the city since she returned to the Palestinian territory, Mrs. al-Wazir said the rehabilitation program will cover 12,000 prisoners and will be directed mainly toward university education. The program also aims at providing health insurance to the prisoners. She noted that the funds will be provided by collecting taxes from the Palestinian citizens in the self-rule area.

The social affairs minister said that the Palestinian Authority will overcome its current financial crisis in six months at most, but she declined to give further details. She urged Palestinians not to rely on the pledges of the donor countries to support the Palestinian areas financially, and noted that unemployment is the most serious challenge facing the Palestinian Authority. Reports suggest that half of the Palestinian work force is unemployed.

## Pakistani Prime Minister Plans To Visit Gaza

*TA2408165294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] [Harley Braidman] Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto plans to visit the Gaza Strip on 4 September to meet Palestinian leaders. The announcement was made at the Foreign Ministry in Islamabad earlier today. Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami talked to Muhammad Salim of the Pakistani Foreign Ministry to hear more about the planned visit.

[Begin recording] [Salim] On the fourth she will arrive there. In fact, she is travelling to Cairo for this population and development conference from fourth to sixth. It is not clear whether she will travel from Egypt or she will arrive in Gaza on her way to Egypt.

[Ben-'Ami] I understand though that there is a bit of a technical difficulty here because Pakistan does not recognize Israel, so how would the prime minister plan to reach the Gaza Strip?

[Salim] I think this question also came up, you know, at the briefing today, and the spokesman, if I recollect his reply, was that this is between the Palestinians to arrange, you know, and this may be sorted out between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

[Ben-'Ami] If Israel was agreeable then, what would happen I understand, is that Prime Minister Bhutto might arrive at, say, Ben-Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv and then travel down to the Gaza Strip.

[Salim] No, I don't think that is possible, but this we, even at the briefing today, said that this would be only a matter which had to be sorted out between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

[Ben-'Ami] Then she'd spend how much time in Gaza then—just a few hours?

[Salim] I think it will be, as far as I could guess, it could be a brief stopover. Where she is, as is mentioned at the briefing that she will be meeting the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinian people.

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[Ben-'Ami] Is there any possibility that this may be the forerunner of official contacts between Pakistan and Israel in addition?

[Salim] Well, I think we have made....[pauses] We do not recognize Israel, and we have, our policy position has been made clear on this subject on quite several occasions. That would not amount to in any way a recognition of Israel.

[Ben-'Ami] I understand. Then we'll have to wait and see what happens on the 4th.

[Salim] Yes, I think things would be clear after the 4th. [end recording]

[Braidman] Our reporter Alan Ben-'Ami is with me in the studio. Alan, I understand you've been talking with the Israeli Foreign Ministry about the visit. What do they have to say?

[Ben-'Ami] The Israeli Foreign Ministry is not surprised at the news today from Islamabad. According to a senior Foreign Ministry official, it was known some days ago that the Pakistani prime minister did intend and did want to visit the Gaza Strip. I am told that the information came directly from Pakistan to Israel via diplomatic channels. When I said—does this mean that there are direct contacts between the Israeli and Pakistani Foreign Ministries?—the official was a little evasive. He said: I will say only that it came directly via diplomatic channels, not clear quite how this contact was established, if it was directly, but anyway, Israel was informed about the visit, apparently has given no objections whatsoever. And I am told that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will be coming here from Cairo. That seems to be fixed now. She will arrive in Cairo on the 4th where she'll be attending a conference. She will come via Rafah crossing point into the Gaza Strip, spend a few hours in the Gaza Strip, and then return to Cairo. Whether there will be any contact with Israeli officials is not clear at the moment. Obviously she'll be meeting the officials at the crossing point. Over and above that, we'll have to wait and see what's going to develop out of this visit.

[Braidman] Alan Ben-'Ami, thank you very much.

## Paper Urges Jordan To Respect 'Palestinian Rights'

*TA2408153894 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 22 Aug 94 p 13*

[Editorial: "Toward Better Relations"]

[Text] Yesterday's talks in Amman between the Palestinians and Jordan began to resolve the differences that surfaced recently, particularly those relating to developments in the peace process. These talks affirm that a climate of discord and tension without coordination and understanding harms the interests of the two parties and adversely affects the achievement of the desired goals in the peace process. These talks also affirm the two sides' eagerness to remove the climate of discord and consolidate the special relations between the sons of the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples.

Undoubtedly, the accelerating developments in the peace process, whether on the Palestinian or Jordanian track, constituted the main reason for the differences and disputes that arose with regard to the Jerusalem issue, the economic problems, or other issues. This, at a time when the required Arab and bilateral coordination had disappeared amid a clear entanglement of the issues raised in the talks with Israel on both the Jordanian and Palestinian tracks.

This entanglement, however, and the intrinsic nature of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship should under no circumstances constitute a pretext or justification to violate generally accepted truths in the lexicon of political action on the regional and international levels. Foremost of all these truths is the Palestinian people's independent national identity and their relentless effort to end the occupation and build their independent state over the occupied Palestinian territories, including Arab Jerusalem. Furthermore, Israel must not be allowed to exploit this entanglement to harm Palestinian-Jordanian relations and avoid paying the dues of peace, especially those relating to the Palestinian problem and Jerusalem. this would be a clear attempt to undermine the Arab position and reinforce its control over Arab Jerusalem.

From this premise, while the Palestinian side rejects any infringement of Jordanian rights within framework of the peace process—foremost of all Jordan's right to Jordanian territories occupied by Israel in the 'Arabah Valley region—it expects the brothers in Jordan to respect Palestinian rights over the entire occupied Palestinian territories, foremost of all Jerusalem. Naturally, those rights stem not only from the fact that the Palestinian side has the foremost responsibility in protecting the holy city's religious shrines and determining the Palestinian territories' economic policies and relations, but—as understood by the Palestinian side, underscored by various Arab summits, and approved by the international community—they are rights which affirm the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and establishment of their independent state over their national soil.

This Palestinian independence and right, however, does not mean that the Palestinian side objects to enhancing its relations with the Arab brothers, especially Jordan, on the basis of respect for those rights and preventing Israel from exploiting the climate of discord and tension to undermine them under various pretexts and justifications.

From this premise, we hope that the Palestinian-Jordanian talks will produce positive results that enhance the two parties' positions in their negotiations with Israel and restore cohesion and close cooperation between the two sides on the basis of mutual respect and understanding and in a way that will serve the two fraternal peoples and their rights to freedom, independence, and security—each on its national soil.

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## Algeria

### Sudanese Islamic Leader on FIS-French Meetings

*LD2408205194 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1800 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] [Announcer] Several arms caches belonging to the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] have been found in France in the last few months. The French authorities, who do not of course wish to be used as a rear guard for the fundamentalists, are reported to have tried to negotiate with them. This is what Shaykh Hassan al-Turabi, leader of the Sudanese fundamentalists, told Philippe Boisserie and Didier Dahan, our special correspondents in Khartoum:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Hassan al-Turabi attacks U.S. policy, but he watches CNN. The brain behind the military-Islamic regime in Sudan is not sectarian. He masters dialectics, and his influence goes beyond the borders of his country. He is the spiritual guide of many Islamists and the friend of the imprisoned FIS eader Abassi Madani. He has also arranged meetings between FIS representatives and the French authorities:

[Correspondent] What did the French Government ask you to do?

[Al-Turabi] To talk to the FIS of course.

[Correspondent] Were there many meetings?

[Al-Turabi] Yes.

[Correspondent] How many?

[Al-Turabi] I cannot remember. Two or three times perhaps.

[Correspondent] Were they serious meetings?

[Al-Turabi] Yes.

[Correspondent] Are they still going on?

[Al-Turabi] I believe they are continuing.

[Correspondent] So you are still mediating between the FIS representatives and the French authorities.

[Al-Turabi] Yes, yes.

[Correspondent] He remained very discreet on the subject of giving names, simply referring to the FIS representatives in Germany, the United States, and the Middle East. No members of the Islamic Armed Group were mentioned, even if he hopes to involove them in the negotiations one day.

[French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe] One literally has to stop believing the declarations made by a certain number of personalities who are not 100 percent reliable. No such move has been undertaken by any official in charge of the French foreign policy.

[Correspondent] The denial is clear but it concerns only the French Foreign Ministry. Alain Juppe was not speaking on behalf of the whole of the government, much less on behalf of the Interior Ministry of Charles Pasqua. [end recording]

### Second Round of National Dialogue Talks Held

#### Zeroual Opens Meeting

*LD2408172594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] The second round of national dialogue between the presidency and five opposition parties resumed today. In an introductory statement, Liamine Zeroual, the head of state, announced that the participation of the dissolved Islamic [Salvation] Front [FIS] depends upon whether this dissolved party will condemn violence and terrorism. The head of state stressed that the participation of the dissolved FIS is conditional upon its commitment to respect the national constant principles and the framework of dialogue. These constant principles consecrate, in particular, the Constitution, the Republic, Islam as the religion of the state, democracy, political pluralism, and respect for human rights. The head of state also defined the framework of dialogue, which consists particularly in respecting the Constitution and the laws and in rejecting violence. More details from our colleague 'Ali Abboud, our correspondent at the Presidency:

[Abboud] The round of national dialogue that started this morning between the regime and the opposition, represented by five parties—the National Liberation Front [FLN], the Party for Algerian Renewal [PRA], the Ennahda and HAMAS [Islamic Society Movement], and the Movement for Democracy in Algeria [MDA]—is continuing in closed session. Liamine Zeroual, the head of state, in a statement that he read to the parties participating in today's meeting, praised the spirit of responsibility that prevailed at last Sunday's meeting. He also recalled some of its main points: the framework and constant principles that must guide the dialogue and that were approved by the parties.

With regard to the dissolved party, the head of state hoped that this party would condemn violence so as to be able to join the dialogue table, as some parties and the state wish.

The head of state called also on the parties participating in this meeting to participate in managing the transitional institutions, including the government, and prepare with it a timetable for elections.

The head of state hopes that this dialogue will continue without interruption until an agreement is reached on all points submitted for discussion. He calls on every party to clarify its views on these points to the leaders of the five parties participating in today's meeting.

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It is expected that the head of state will submit to the officials of the parties participating in today's meeting the content of the documents that Messrs. Djeddi and Boukhamkham conveyed to the officials of the dissolved party when they met them in Blida prison.

Today's meeting is taking place in an atmosphere where optimism and a spirit of responsibility prevail regarding the importance of the event. We wish to point out that in the end it is expected that Liamine Zeroual will propose to the five parties the agenda, and he intends to submit during this session a detailed report on the security situation in our country.

### Presidential Spokesman on Talks

*LD2408195394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Excerpts] The most current round of the national dialogue between the head of state and five opposition parties ended today. The two sides have agreed to return to the dialogue table on 5 September. More details about today's meeting are in the following report by Hamzah Wahib:

[Begin recording] [Wahib] [passage omitted] At the end of this meeting presidential spokesman Mihboub Mihoubi made the following statement:

[Mihoubi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We have emerged from the second day of the national dialogue, which is a continuous process. Serious and good work was done today. A review of all information required from all sides was done; and an exchange of all data on the trend in the country was made. We have emerged convinced that everyone now has a clear picture and a comprehensive view; there is common conviction regarding the need for continuing the dialogue and arriving at results that are commensurate with the event and the aspirations of our people, who are following this meeting with interest. There is also a desire by the parties to pause for a very short time, go back to the leaderships of these parties, study the various points we discussed today, and then to return, God willing on 5 September, to resume the dialogue.

The atmosphere was good and businesslike and the discussion was far-reaching and frank. The picture has now become clear, and everyone has agreed to work for the return of the country to its normal situation and the restoration of the democratic process to its correct track. This is on the one hand. On the other hand, there is an agreement to continue contacts with the various parties that were invited but did not attend this meeting. His excellency, the head of state, has also expressed his approval and encouragement to the various parties that are participating in the dialogue and to the patriotic personalities who wish to make contacts with the representatives of the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] party and have whatever dialogue they deem necessary with the FIS leaders.

To sum up, the work was businesslike and commensurate with the event. We are convinced that everyone is striving to put the country's interests above all considerations. This is encouraging and good and gives a real and honorable picture of the political strata of the country. We are optimistic. God willing there will be results commensurate with the aspirations of everyone. [end recording]

### Participants Assess Talks

*LD2408215194 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] After today's session of the national dialogue, the representatives of the five political formations which took part in today's meeting made the following statements to our colleague Samia Azzi:

[Begin recording] [Abdelhamid Mehri, National Liberation Front leader] The discussions dealt with the outstanding issues. I think that the focus was on the need for us to make sure that all the conditions for the success of the dialogue are met. This is the point on which we focused, and we have taken a break to go back to our parties and prepare tangible proposals to ensure the success of the dialogue before we start discussing the fundamental issues.

[Azzi] When is the next meeting?

[Mehri] On 5 September, God willing.

[Azzi] Did you agree on an agenda?

[Mehri] We have agreed to focus first on making sure that all conditions for the success of the dialogue are met.

[Abdallah Djaballah, Ennahda leader] The second day of the dialogue was more serious and the issues were presented more clearly. We agreed on a methodology for running the dialogue. The first main point of such a methodology is to make sure that all conditions for the success of the dialogue are met. The point to be discussed in the future is the conditions for the success of the dialogue. We have taken a break during which each side will go back to its party to prepare a paper on the objective and effective conditions that each party deems necessary to guarantee the success of the national dialogue.

[Azzi] What are your impressions of the second day of the dialogue?

[Khaled Bensmail, representative of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria] I think we have not reached the core issue of our concern as yet.

[Azzi] On this second day, what are your impressions on the second round and the second meeting of the dialogue?

[Nourreddine Boukrouh, leader of the Party of Algerian Renewal] The dialogue is continuing and more steps are being taken. As I told you on the first day, the dialogue is

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very serious and, God willing, we will continue in this way and maybe we will achieve a result. Each one of us is endeavoring to make sure that we reach solutions as soon as possible.

[Azzi] What about the agenda suggested by the head of state?

[Boukrouh] Indeed. The agenda imposed itself during the two days of discussions. It is a logical agenda and it is the nature of the crisis that imposes on us the agenda and its items. We are still improving and strengthening this agenda.

[Azzi] Hello. What are your impressions on this second day of the dialogue?

[Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of HAMAS, the Islamic Society Movement] Our departure from the conference room represents the end of the fourth round of this dialogue, which today approached matters with more precision than ever before.

[Azzi] What were those issues?

[Nahnah] Particularly with regard to the need for the participation of the parties that are absent or that have refrained from taking part, whether we are talking about the Islamic Salvation Front and its legitimate and historical leadership, or the Socialist Forces Front, i.e., the FFS, because it is, as we all know, a national movement, and we must do our best to see that all the groups take part in the dialogue insulated from all forms of blackmail or provocation. Frankly, we have now put forward numerous ideas on measures the authorities could take to facilitate the dialogue process and ensure its success, as well as the measures that the leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front or the Socialist Forces Front could take to go eventually to the negotiating table around which Algerians could respect one another and cooperate with one another in order to resolve this impasse—an impasse which we in HAMAS believe that we did not cause, nor are we a part of. However, we are cooperating with others, with the political class and with all parties, to resolve this crisis. Indeed, it became clear today that all parties are open to a deep dialogue on sensitive issues. Thank you. [end recording]

In a statement released today, the Algerian Party of Justice and Progress expressed its satisfaction with the dialogue that is taking place with the political class.

## Higher Income Support Allowances Said Approved

*LD2408135394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] Nine billion dinars have been earmarked by the government to support the social security system to help people without income. Over to Souad Selimi for further details:

[Selimi] Nine billion dinars will be allocated in the second half of this financial year to families without income. This measure falls within the framework of the new social security system the government has introduced, the Algerian news agency APS has quoted a ministerial source as saying. These allowances will be relatively higher than the average monthly allowances given to families without income and will range between 1,500 and 2,000 dinars.

It is worth mentioning that with the previous social security system, every person without income was receiving 120 dinars per month. The new system, which was introduced in the wake of the abolition of subsidies on basic foodstuffs, is aimed at offsetting the rise in prices with the allocation of a grant to workers, pensioners, and deprived sections of society. The aim is also to do away with the mechanism of subsidies that had negative consequences for the social objective the state was trying to achieve by subsidizing prices of strategic goods. With this new system, the state is also aiming at introducing a more transparent policy as regards aid for the most needy sections of society.

## Militant Group Claims To Have Media 'Hit List'

*NC2508065094 Paris AFP in English 0007 GMT 25 Aug 94*

[Text] Algiers, Aug 25 (AFP)—The military wing of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) has said it has a list of Algerian journalists it considers close to the government and who are to be killed.

The Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), which did not name the targeted journalists, reported the existence of the hit list in its publication AL FATH AL MOUBINE, a copy of which was obtained by AFP.

It said the targets had been designated following the interrogation of Brahim Taouchichet, the director of the magazine HOROSCOPE who was kidnapped by the AIS on August 15 and held for 24 hours.

Taouchichet, according to the AIS, was given a message for Algerian journalists, calling on them to choose between "supporting the regime and supporting the people."

In its last issue, AL FATH AL MOUBINE issued "a final warning" to reporters to stay away from a press center here named for Tahar Djaout, the first Algerian journalist killed by Islamic militants. He died on May 26, 1993.

The center houses the offices of most of the country's independent journalists.

Islamic militants have waged a bloody struggle with Algerian authorities since January 1992, when the government cancelled the second round of elections that the FIS had been poised to win.

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### National Transition Council Member Assassinated

*NC2508120494 Paris AFP in English 1129 GMT 25 Aug 94*

[Text] Algiers, Aug 25 (AFP)—A member of Algeria's National Transition Council has been shot and killed at his home in an Islamic fundamentalist stronghold east of Algiers, the security services said Thursday.

Kaci Abdallah Mohamed, 60, died of bullet wounds after being shot late Wednesday [24 August] in Benzerga, the security services said without giving further details.

The military-backed government set up the Council as a legislative body after cancelling in early 1992 a second round of multiparty elections the Islamic Salvation Front was poised to win and also dissolving parliament.

The dead man was active in the Algerian Movement For Justice and Development founded by former premier Kasdi Merbah, himself assassinated on August 20, 1993.

His killing was the latest in a low-level Islamic guerrilla war which has claimed more than 3,000 lives.

### Killing Confirmed

*LD2508130194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Aug 94*

[Text] At the security level, a statement by the security services today announced that Mr. Kaci Abdallah Mohamed, a member of the Transitional National Council, was assassinated by gunfire around 2100, at his home in the Benzerga quarter in Bordj El Kifan, east of the capital. The deceased, who was 60 years old, was a member of the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development, MAJD.

## Egypt

### Mubarak, Jordan's al-Majali Review Peace Process

*NC2408141494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] Geneva, 24 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali at the president's residence in Geneva. During the meeting they reviewed the course of the comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East as part of the coordination between the two countries and among all the parties concerned. They also reviewed the outcome of the implementation of the Cairo Agreement between the PLO and Israel on establishing self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza. They exchanged views on various issues of interest to the Arab states as well as other international developments.

### Musa Views U.S. Ties; Envoy to Sudan To Return

*NC2208150694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Aug 94*

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said he received a report today from Egyptian Ambassador to Sudan Dr. Hasan Jad-al-Haqq on bilateral relations. He said the ambassador will return to Khartoum soon.

Musa said Ahmad Mahir, the Egyptian ambassador to the United States, also presented a report on relations between Egypt and the United States. He said U.S. Vice President Al Gore will arrive in Cairo on 4 September and will hold talks on bilateral economic relations.

Musa said Egypt always focuses on investment, especially after increasing its exports to the U.S. market. He said Egypt seeks to increase exports, open new markets, and ensure fairness in the acceptance of its exports. He said Egyptian products have proven their good quality and U.S. demand for them has increased.

Musa said that during Al Gore's talks, Egyptian-U.S. economic cooperation will be reviewed in light of U.S. aid and development in Egypt.

On the Middle East peace process, Musa said there can be no just and comprehensive peace without withdrawal from the Golan. He said his meeting with the ambassadors of the European Union [EU] this evening is part of the consultations on Egyptian-European relations, the EU role in the peace process, and the new partnership agreement between Egypt and the EU.

### Source Denies Aircraft Violated Sudan's Airspace

*NC2408160194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1517 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] Cairo, 24 Aug (MENA)—A responsible source has denied reports that an Egyptian aircraft violated Sudanese airspace over the town of Halfa and that it returned after receiving a warning. In a statement to MENA today, the source said that those claims by the Sudanese paper AL-INQADH AL-WATANI are absolutely false. He said that Egypt does not fly aircraft toward Halfa or the Egyptian-Sudanese borders. In addition, Sudan does not have early warning capabilities, which affirms that the claim is untrue.

The source pointed out that the Sudanese paper's claim that another Egyptian jet fighter had flown over Sudan some time ago is also untrue. This claim is a false rumor and an exposed attempt to stir up Sudanese public opinion to justify the regime's provocative actions against Egypt.

### Writer Urges Collective Arab Support for Libya

*NC1908132194 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 14 Aug 94 p 9*

[Article by Ihsan Bakr: "They Are Paying the Price Alone"]

[Excerpts] It appears as if it is Libya's fate to be subjected to sanctions and economic siege. This is what the U.S. Administration wants for Libya and for the Iraqi people. This is the truth that the Libyan leadership must accept

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and deal with accordingly instead of wasting its time and effort on futile initiatives and efforts with the Security Council member states.

It also appears that the Lockerbie issue will remain a permanent item on the Security Council's agenda, which is renewed every three months, thus continuing the sanctions as long as the Libyan leadership refuses to submit—and this is its legitimate and legal right—and refuses to take any measure that infringes its national dignity. Since all the solutions it has offered and all the initiatives proposed by the Arab League have been rejected, the only acceptable solution, from the U.S. view, is the extradition of the two Libyans accused of blowing up the U.S. plane over Scotland for trial in the United States or Britain. Should such a measure be taken, it would be regarded as a major political scandal and unprecedented negligence. [passage omitted]

Several days ago, while the Libyan people were awaiting a decision to lift the injustice imposed on them and the removal of sanctions, the Security Council renewed its resolution and maintained the sanctions on Libya for another four months.

This means that Libya will remain pursued and encircled by the international community for another four months, at a time when the Libyan leadership has tried its utmost to contain the crisis and reach a peaceful settlement. The Libyan leadership has even gone the whole way in agreeing to have the suspects tried fairly before Scottish judges, in accordance with Scots Law, and on the premises of the International Court of Justice in the Hague. This Arab League proposal constitutes a legal way out of the crisis. First, it implements the resolutions of international legitimacy and, second, it guarantees Libya's sovereignty and its respect for its laws.

But it appears that the United States still insists on humiliating the Libyan regime by imposing conditions that are unacceptable to any nationalist regime.

We are saying nothing new when we state that the rules of international law give no country the right to demand the extradition of the nationals of another country for trial outside their national sovereignty. The trial of those accused of carrying out actions against civil aviation safety is conducted in accordance with international agreements concluded by the judiciary of the country in which the defendants are located, not in any other country.

And we are saying nothing new when we state that the Security Council's task of maintaining international peace and security cannot be extended to include individuals of other countries, because international organizations in general and international law in particular address themselves to states as international legal entities and do not address themselves to individuals.

We are then facing clear and premeditated Western insistence, led by the United States through its use of the Security Council, to impose the siege on the Libyan people. In view of this stance, which violates norms and laws, we can only address the Arab countries collectively and urge them not to leave the Libyan people to pay alone the price of political stances adopted by their leadership, regardless of whether we support or oppose this leadership. The issue now is one of an entire Arab people on whom sanctions have been imposed and who are under siege. It is paying the price alone, in suffering and isolation.

The first duty of brotherhood and solidarity is to have the Arab countries adopt, through the Arab League, a collective stance against this blatant aggression of a fraternal Arab people on the pretext of implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy.

A statement by the Arab League secretary general expressing regret at the Security Council resolution is not enough.

What is needed is a single Arab stance on this blatant aggression against a country that is a UN member state. Will the Arab countries shoulder their responsibilities and will the Arab League use new methods of action that differ from traditional methods? This is the question.

## Mufti on Positive, Negative Points of ICPD Plan

*NC2308190694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Aug 94*

[Text] Cairo, 23 Aug (MENA)—His Eminence Dr. Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, mufti of the Republic, has said that the plan of action of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] includes positive and negative points.

In a statement he issued today, the mufti mentioned as positive points the plan's good statistics about world population and the kinds of economic, social, and scientific development that help reduce the extent of poverty, ignorance, and disease; the plan's emphasis on the rights of women and children to education and social and health care and on the danger of humiliating practices such as trade in women, children, and teenagers and their use for prostitution; and the plan's repeated warnings against perverted and contemptible sexual relations that cause AIDS.

Other positive aspects of the conference plan, the statement said, is its call on governments to mobilize all sectors of society to combat AIDS, its repeated warning against abortion which weakens the mother's health, and its appeal to governments to confront unsafe abortions.

Dr. Tantawi said in his statement that another positive aspect about the conference' plan of action is its repeated call for renouncing and combating ethnic cleansing, such as that which happened and is now happening in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where the Serbs are launching a sinful aggression against Muslims and are trying to expel them from their country. Other positive points are the call to

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end discrimination against immigrants in developed countries and prevent any trade in them, especially for prostitution purposes, and the call for providing adequate health, education, and social services to the refugees and the displaced.

Other positive points in the conference' plan, the mufti said in his statement, is its call for proper education for everybody with special attention to primary and technical education and job training; its call for a war against illiteracy; and its call for encouraging scientific research in a manner that fully respects internationally-accepted ethical, medical, and scientific standards.

Dr. Tantawi said in his statement that one of the negative points about the conference' plan is that it encourages equal treatment between boys and girls in terms of nutrition, health care, inheritance and education rights. The Islamic shari'ah, Dr., Tantawi explained, categorically rejects this because it violates God's saying: "God directs you as regards your children's inheritance: to a male a portion equal to that of two females." [Koranic verse]

The conference, moreover, says that [unmarried] individuals, like married people, have a right to family planning. This is unacceptable because family planning should be practiced only by legal husbands and wives and when there is a reason acceptable to shari'ah.

On abortion, Dr. Tantawi said in his statement that the Islamic shari'ah dictates that the mother must retain the embryo from the first day she feels its presence until its birth, and must not resort to abortion except when there is a reason acceptable to shari'ah.

He said Islam's position on all such obscenities as moral decadence and all its filthy features, sexual perversion and all its disgraceful manifestations, and deviation from ethics, is that one must not come close to them, let alone commit them. God said: "Come not nigh to shameful deeds, whether open or secret." [Koranic verse]

### Writer Accuses Government of Waging War on Religion

*NC2308190194 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 18 Aug 94 p 1*

[Article by Chief Editor Jamal Badawi: "Please, Do Not Pour Oil on the Fire"]

[Excerpt] The attack on the al-Jam'iyah al-Shar'iyah Mosque in Shubra al-Khaymah should not pass without taking some time with the state, its thinkers, writers, spokesmen, and all those helping to create the current atmosphere. This atmosphere gives the people the impression that the state is lying in wait for godliness, chasing anyone who is thought to be pious, and is determined to fight godliness itself now that it is on the brink of liquidating the terrorist groups. There are many signals that give this impression, the last of which was the demolition of the mosque staircase on the pretext that it was occupying part of the pavement. This is a naive excuse that does not convince even a child. What about the millions who walk along the Greater Cairo streets and find that the pavements have been sold to merchants, beggars, and peddlers? They even find that this hateful occupation has spread from the pavements to the main roads and that pedestrians and vehicles have been left with nothing but a narrow route that is reminiscent of the famous "Ladies Alley" in old Alexandria.

All this occupation is taking place while the government is sleeping or silent for reasons known to both sides: the state's officials and the tradesmen. But the government, which is keeping silent over the occupation of the pavements, suddenly remembered law and order when the issue concerned a mosque staircase that occupied part of the pavement. Silence then melted, the appetite was whetted, lips were upturned, and the security forces moved to remove the aggression against the pavement. Disaster struck and a regrettable clash took place between the people and the security forces. Was the person who made this stupid decision not aware of the consequences of the aggression against the mosque? If he did not know, then it was a tragedy. If he did, then it was a double tragedy.

We have said dozens of times that the Egyptians—famous for their docility, gentleness, and tenderness—will turn into deadly tigers if they feel that there is an attack on religion, its sacred places, symbols, and men. We have repeatedly said that the Egyptians might suffer injustice silently because they believe that it will not last and that light will follow darkness, but any infringement on their beliefs will be the spark that arouses their fervor, energizes them, and moves them from a state of silence to one of deterrence and of repelling the aggression, even if this demanded that they sacrifice their lives. The citizens who rushed to defend the mosque and clashed with the police undoubtedly viewed the incident as part of the current violent campaign to harm religion and its men and of the intentional linkage between religion and terrorism.

The sage ones have voiced their view of terrorism and proved with their awareness and understanding that religion is innocent of the criminal acts committed by the terrorists in its name. What does this insistence on regarding all that is godliness as extremism and terrorism mean! It means that the scourge of terrorism has moved from the terrorist groups to the authority, its men, and its thinkers. They have fallen in the pit dug by terrorism, the pit of excess and exaggeration in assessing the situation and of tyranny in passing sentences.

The groups used to say: Whoever is not with us is an infidel. The government is now saying that whoever grows a beard is an extremist and a terrorist, that the woman who wears a veil is an extremist, that whoever goes to a non-government controlled mosque is an extremist and deserves to have the mosque demolished

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over his head, and that religion is the crucible where terrorism breeds and grows in number. Reckless pens then started to attack the al-Azhar, its scholars, shaykhs, and luminaries. Even the Egyptian church has not escaped this oppressive aggression.

Those spreading this poison in Egypt's environment believe that they are serving the government and entrenching the regime against its adversaries. The fact is that they are pouring oil on the fire so as to make it rage still further. They are putting the government in a bloody confrontation with religion and provoking the Egyptian masses to choose which of the two sides of the conflict to side with. There is no doubt that these masses will side with religion and will support the al-Azhar and the church regardless of the sacrifices. Is this what is wanted?

I am appealing to the reason of those who have the honor of expressing views in words. I appeal to them not to rush but to take a balanced view and not to be carried away by the odious calls to insult religion and its men on the pretext that there are no clerics in Islam and that it does not recognize the class of men of religion. I tell them that this is not correct. Islam does not recognize any mediation between the Creator and His followers but it respects the ulemas. It urges us to respect them and regards them as the Prophets' heirs. It forbids us from insulting them.

As to the Shubra al-Khaymah incident, it was an alarm bell warning the state against belittling religious feelings. To remove the mayor or security director as a way of dealing with the incident is not enough. What is needed is the elimination of the spirit of hostility to religion and the suspicious look at anything that has to do with religion. [passage omitted]

### 13 'Terrorists' Captured in Suhaj Governorate

*NC2408140794 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 21 Aug 94 p 1*

[Report by Khalid Hasan]

[Text] Suhaj—The Suhaj security and the State Security organs have succeeded in capturing 13 terrorists, including 32-year old Khalid Ibrahim Bakhit, leader of al-Jihad Organization in Markaz Tima and an employee of al-Azhar. He was arrested near the village of Salamun.

A responsible security source stated that the Suhaj security forces have received 10 armored vehicles as part of the plan to capture the remaining terrorists in Suhaj Governorate.

### Prime Minister Discusses Economic Reforms, Debts

*NC2408133294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi made a statement today in which he said that Egypt views the Sudanese people with love, respect, and appreciation and that the fraternal relations between the two peoples will continue. He said that relations between Egypt and the IMF and other international funding establishments are excellent and that negotiations with the IMF are continuing to write off the third part of Egypt's debts at the Paris Club meetings scheduled to convene in Paris in October.

Dr. Sidqi said that the second phase of economic reforms, which has begun, aims at increasing the annual development rate to approximately 6 percent instead of the current 4 percent. He noted that privatization aims at expanding the ownership of shares and reforming the financial structures of particular companies, noting that any company offered for sale will only be sold at an appropriate price in accordance with an assessment. He said the economic reform measures that have been taken so far have reduced the inflation rate to approximately 6 percent and that efforts are continuing to reduce this rate and the deficit in the state's general budget.

Dr. Sidqi pointed out that the government pays special attention to exports and that several resolutions will be passed to encourage and increase Egyptian exports. He noted that the system of investment funding that has come into effect aims to expand citizens' investment in bank notes through investment experts. An IMF delegation will arrive in Cairo next week to complete discussions on writing off the third part of Egypt's debts.

### Electricity Contracts Won in Gulf, Africa

*NC2508063794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Aug (MENA)—Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of the public business sector and minister of state for administrative development, has announced that the subsidiaries of the holding company for electric power and electricity distribution have won $300 million worth of contracts in the Gulf states and north Africa.

Following a meeting with the company's board, Dr. 'Ubayd said the company's subsidiaries made a surplus of 438 million pounds this year, 77 million pounds up on the past year, and that they paid the State Treasury 265 million pounds in revenue. He said the subsidiaries' total revenue amounted to 4 billion pounds and that the holding company no longer has any loss-making company; it had seven last year. [passage omitted]

## Libya

### JANA Editor on Pakistani Nuclear Arms Claims

*LD2408213694 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] Western media have disseminated news items concerning Pakistan's ownership of nuclear arms, a matter which gave rise to the concerns of the Western countries despite the fact that Pakistan had on many occasions denied any ownership of these nuclear arms.

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The JANA international affairs editor commented upon this issue by saying: The truth that should be known by all and the question that must be asked is why do the Israeli nuclear bombs and the weapons of mass destruction owned by the Israeli racists not cause any panic and fear among the small and the weak who are being threatened and who know that the destinies of entire nations are being endangered?

The editor further said that the West never does anything when there is talk about the Israeli nuclear weapon. The Israelis, as admitted by the International Atomic Energy Agency, own more than 400 nuclear warheads and a huge arsenal of destructive arms. On the other hand, as soon as there is talk about a Third World country, we see the West making much about nothing following an enthusiastic speech made by an eager Pakistani candidate trying to gain more votes for himself.

The editor concluded his comment by saying: The Western countries, which are panicking at the mere suspicion that a country has a nuclear weapon, do not seem to make any mention about these weapons in France or America or the other countries that own nuclear arms.

## Morocco

### Investigation Launched Into Killing of Tourists

*LD2408213394 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] The Interior Ministry has issued the following communique:

At 1030 today, Wednesday [24 August], three armed men stormed the lobby of the Atlas Asni Hotel in Marrakech and haphazardly opened fire on the customers who were in the lobby. This resulted in the killing of two people—a man and a woman of Spanish nationality, and the wounding of two other women, one is a Moroccan and the other is Spanish. After that the three assailants who were masked and did not speak in a Moroccan accent, and who could have been of a foreign nationality—according to the statements taken at the scene—proceeded to the hotel's cash office where they took 10,000 dirhams before fleeing in a vehicle belonging to a Moroccan female citizen whom they took with them as a hostage in order to use her as protection during the operation. They released her when they were far from the hotel.

The vehicle—a Peugeot 305—which was used by the assailants when fleeing, was found at 1400; all its doors were open. It was found near the Essadi Hotel. All measures were taken by the security, police, and Royal gendarmerie to find the assailants. The Justice Department in Marrakech was informed of the matter. An investigation has been opened. Artist-impression pictures will be published, a matter that will enable the public to assist the authorities in arresting the criminals.

The Moroccan Government has offered condolences and expressed its profound sentiments to the families of the victims and the Spanish ambassador in Rabat.

### Suicide Said Cause of 21 Aug Plane Crash

*LD2508012594 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2315 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] Regarding the Moroccan plane which crashed near Agadir on 21 August, we received the following statement from the technical fact finding commission appointed by the minister of transport. The statement said:

From the analysis of the first elements of the investigations and particularly after the dubbing of the recordings in the plane's black boxes, which were examined by the Moroccan technical commission at the official laboratory of the French Civil Aviation Authority's bureau of investigation, it was found that the crash of the Moroccan ATR 42 CNCDT Royal Air Maroc plane on Sunday 21 August 1994 on the outskirts of Agadir was caused by the pilot's wish to end his life. He stopped the automatic navigation steering mechanism and directed the plane into the ground.

This conduct was not expected from an experienced pilot with 4,500 hours of flying, who was professionally and physically fit for the job, and was subjected to all annual medical check-ups at the pilots' special medical center. His last check up was on 7 July 1994. On the 30 July he was subjected to a test of professional competence. Thorough investigations are under way to try to understand the reasons behind this mysterious behavior.

The technical fact-finding commission says that no fault was noted in the plane or in examination of the crew's professional skills. The commission is to issue a comprehensive report on the circumstances in which this incident happened. The statement was signed by the commission's chairman, Mohamed Moufid.

## Sudan

### Al-Bashir: Cairo Conference Undermines Family

*EA2408155594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has stated that the world population conference, scheduled to be held in Cairo from 5 to 13 September, seeks to undermine the Muslim family. He pointed out that the basic document of the conference includes concepts that contradict religious and spiritual values, particularly with regard to the relationship between the two sexes and the undermining of moral values. During his regular meeting this morning with leaders of the information and press organs, his excellency added that, if this document is approved, it would be a disaster for Muslim society, because it

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encourages youths not to marry and permits the unlawful practice of abortion, which the Islamic shari'ah prohibits.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said the choice of Cairo for this conference was not a coincidence. It was intended to offend Islamic and Arab societies, because Cairo represents an important Arab and Islamic center. Also, Cairo has an Islamic presence. The president of the Republic stated that any document, whatever its source, must abide by Islamic values and standards. [passage omitted]

During today's meeting, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir disclosed that a constitutional decree will be issued soon for the setting up of the Supreme Council for Peace, which will lead political mobilization operations for peace and development. He said the setting up of this council coincides with the successful efforts directed toward the achievement of peace from within. He explained that numerous areas had been secured through peace from within and not through military operations. The president pointed out that the Supreme Council for Peace will set up branch councils in various states and will include numerous effective leaderships in the north and south.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir also announced that an institute for judicial and legal training will be set up, with the aim of unifying legal practices. Sisterly and friendly states would be able to benefit from training opportunities at this institute. [passage omitted]

### Action Against Egyptian 'Assault' Urged

*EA2408204094 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Excerpts] 'Abd-al-Aziz Shiddu, minister of justice and attorney general, has stated that the actions of the Egyptian regime against the Sudanese diplomatic mission in Cairo is a dangerous violation of international conventions and laws. [passage omitted]

He said the assault on diplomats is regarded as an international crime. The minister of justice and attorney general called on the authorities that observe international laws and conventions to take effective steps with regard to the Egyptian regime's behavior and its violation of international laws. He also asked for appropriate measures to be taken to protect Sudanese diplomats in Cairo.

### Al-Turabi Role in 'Carlos' Handover Criticized

*MM2408105094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Aug 94 p3*

[Reports by Amir Taheri in London and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau in Cairo: "News of Major Role Played by al-Turabi in Carlos Extradition to France"]

[Excerpts] Reports from Khartoum and Beirut indicate that the hidden role played by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the [National] Islamic Front in Sudan, in the extradition of Carlos to France could split the ranks of the political fundamentalist movement in the Middle East.

Several hardline groups have written to al-Turabi requesting an explanation for the "intricate role" he played in the arrangements for the extradition of Carlos.

Al-Turabi last year organized an international conference in Khartoum in which fundamentalist parties and movements from about 20 countries participated.

The "Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine," which attended that conference in Khartoum, has described the extradition of Carlos as an "act of treason." In a written statement issued in Sidon, southern Lebanon, it said that the extradition of Carlos was part of "a major conspiracy against Islam and the Arabs."

According to Lebanese sources, Lebanon's Hizballah has sent a message to al-Turabi requesting "an adequate explanation."

Sudan's decision to hand over Illich Ramirez Sanchez, known as Carlos, has been criticized by two of Iran's most prominent fundamentalist leaders, namely 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi and Mehdi Kharrubi, both of whom have close links with al-Turabi.

A spokesman for the Islamic Party of Afghanistan said yesterday that Golboddin Hekmatyar, the party's leader, had sent "a fraternal message" to al-Turabi expressing "deep concern" regarding "the extradition because it constitutes a precedent threatening the safety of many fundamentalist elements in various countries."

The Sudanese Government said that the actual details of Carlos' extradition were handled by security officials, and Dr. Al-Turabi's role was confined to drawing up "the political framework" for the extradition. [passage omitted]

In Cairo, informed sources say that Washington has rejected a Sudanese Government request for a high-level U.S.-Sudanese meeting during U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's expected tour of the Middle East.

The sources add that the Sudanese Government asked one of the Arab states visited by Christopher on his previous visit to convey that Sudanese wish to him and consider holding the meeting in the capital of that mediating Arab state to persuade the U.S. Administration to take Sudan's name off the list of states that sponsor terrorism.

### Government Suggests Postponing Peace Talks

*EA2408204494 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] Dr. Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, the official spokesman of the government in the peace negotiations, has affirmed that it is more useful to postpone the forthcoming round of negotiations, scheduled from 5 to

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7 September, pending the search for a new mechanism for negotiation that will take another direction leading to positive results. This was said when he met today, in his office at Friendship Hall, his excellency the Kenyan ambassador to Khartoum.

Dr. Ali al-Hajj added that the previous meetings discussed modalities more than fundamental issues and that the results arrived at in the Abuja and Nairobi negotiations were not taken into account. His excellency described the date of the forthcoming meeting as impractical. He explained that the expected visit to Sudan of the Kenyan foreign minister and chairman of the meetings' committee in Nairobi is a start to direct and diplomatic contacts between the parties.

Meanwhile, his excellency met the charge d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum, who conveyed to his excellency the news that Ambassador Melissa Wells would be arriving in Sudan on 27 August, within the framework of negotiations and consultations concerning ways for establishing peace in Sudan. Dr. Ali al-Hajj conveyed to the charge d'affaires Sudan's view about the forthcoming meeting in Nairobi.

## Garang Condemned for 'Assault' on Kenyan Camp

*EA2508101094 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] Professor Safiyyah 'Abd-al-Rahim, chairman of the social affairs committee in the Transitional National Assembly, has condemned the practices of John Garang's faction and its assault on the Kakuma children's camp in Kenya forcing them to join training camps and pushing them into the furnaces of war imposed on Sudan.

Prof. Safiyyah said this disgraceful conduct of throwing children into the furnaces of war is an act that is incompatible with (?all) human rights charters, conventions, and traditions. She explained that the social affairs committee in the assembly has prepared a memorandum for the social affairs committees of sisterly and friendly parliaments calling for serious joint action to save these innocent sons from the claws of the rebellion. She said that effective steps would be taken shortly to brief international organizations and bodies about the scale of Garang's hideous crime. She expressed the hope that the briefing meetings will lead to the formulation of joint action to deal with this issue. Prof. Safiyyah explained that the committee has, meanwhile, held separate meetings to prepare for parliamentary action over this matter.

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### MKO Blames Iranians for Baghdad Car Bomb

*NC2408172694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Aug (MENA)—The Iranian opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] has condemned the explosion of a booby-trapped car in Baghdad the day before yesterday and has described it as a terrorist crime against innocent people. The MKO stressed that the Egyptian child who was a victim of this crime did not commit any sin to deserve to be killed by the explosion.

In exclusive remarks to a MENA correspondent in Baghdad today, MKO sources noted that past experience shows that the Iranian authorities are behind this incident because they cannot survive without resorting to terrorism and creating crises. The same sources added that the Iranian authorities are exporting terrorism to the region's countries and to North Africa, particularly Egypt and Algeria.

The sources revealed that last year the Iranian authorities carried out 117 terrorist operations against MKO, including 17 operations against the Iranian resistance on Iraqi territory. Concluding, the sources said: As they have repeatedly declared before, the mojahedin stress that firmness is the only way to deal with this regime to put an end to its terrorist operations.

### Saddam's Patience Seen 'Paying Off' on Sanctions

*MS2408144294 London THE GUARDIAN in English 24 Aug 94 P 18*

[Article by Julie Flint: "Saddam Wins War of Nerves With the World"]

[Text] When Saddam Husayn cannot kill or terrify his enemies, he waits. The tactic has been evident time and again in his political career. He has been playing this waiting game since the Gulf war, and his patience now looks like paying off on the issue of international sanctions.

There is no doubt the Iraqi leader is being squeezed by the international action, the sanctions are reviewed every two months by the UN Security Council to see if they are being breached, and to consider any change of approach. But now there are clear signs that the tide is turning in Iraq's favour.

At the latest of the Security Council's reviews, Russia, a veto wielding member, opposed—for the first time—continuation of the embargo. Although the United States responded with its toughest rhetoric in months, accusing Iraq of terrorism and "minimal compliance with Council requirements on weapons of mass destruction", the NEW YORK TIMES weighed in on the Russian side "expediting an end to international sanctions", in the words of the Iraqi News Agency, by suggesting that the embargo could be lifted by next spring. The paper also accused Washington of "changing the rules" by introducing a new human rights linkage.

The debate centres on Resolution 687 of April, 1991, which makes lifting the embargo conditional on the destruction of chemical, biological and nuclear arsenals and long-range missiles, and acceptance of long-term international monitoring. "The accursed Ekeus"—as the Iraqi media still calls the head of the UN's inspection commission, Rolf Ekeus—has now reported that the destruction of weapons is almost complete and an effective monitoring system could be in place by September.

Iraq is demanding a "legal reading" of 687, irrespective of the body of UN resolutions that followed its defeat in Kuwait. This would reward Baghdad for complying with one resolution—if, indeed, it has done so—while defying others that may be of little concern to the international community, but are matters of life and death to the Iraqi people.

Particularly worrying is the fact that Iraq has chosen to turn a blind eye to two UN rulings, one of which authorises limited oil sales to finance the UN supervised distribution of food and medicine; while the other demands respect for human rights. It would also ignore evidence that there is more to the regime's intentions than meets the inspectors' eye—renewed contact between Baghdad and Jordanian middlemen to arrange the purchase of artillery, shells and missile guidance systems once oil revenues start flowing again.

A second argument in favour of lifting the oil embargo holds that sanctions are hurting the regime's victims more than the regime itself; that thousands of ordinary Iraqis are dying every month because the devaluation of the dinar has put even basic foodstuffs beyond their reach and the government cannot, or will not, find the $1.2 billion a year needed to maintain food rationing. Deputy prime minister Tariq 'Aziz, whose memory is short, claims the ban amounts to genocide.

Sanctions have undeniably been cataclysmic. But the solution does not lie in removing the oil embargo. Without UN supervision, Saddam will use the revenue not to feed those who rebelled against him three years ago, but to rebuild the republic of fear on which his survival depends.

It cost $3,000—$1,000 for every gun used—to have journalist Lizzie Schmidt murdered in northern Iraq earlier this year. Not without reason do the Kurds fear that the end of the oil embargo will mean the end of their enclave. The Shi'ites for their part, fear that individual killings—like the murder this year of the Shi'ite activist and philanthropist Mohammed Taqi al-Khoei—will be repeated a thousand times.

The devastating effect of sanctions would have been minimised, if not entirely eliminated, had the UN showed even a fraction of the concern for human rights and humanitarian needs that it has shown for disarmament.

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Scores of weapons inspection teams have been sent to Baghdad but little or nothing has been done to force Saddam either to sell oil for food or to accept the human rights monitors recommended by the UN emissary.

Resolution 706 can still do much to alleviate suffering. Saddam has so far refused to accept it, holding his increasingly impoverished people as propaganda weapons by arguing that UN supervision of oil revenue would infringe Iraqi sovereignty (already infringed to a far greater degree by his acquiescence in weapons destruction).

However, the UN is not without leverage: rescind approval for the sale to Jordan of petroleum products worth almost $700 million a year, Iraqi opposition leaders say, and see the change of heart.

Recent fighting among Kurdish groups has almost certainly killed the always-faint hope of international support for a provisional opposition government in the Kurdish enclave. But Washington must be encouraged to implement the proposal advanced to opposition leaders in April 1993 for a commission of inquiry into Saddam's war crimes. Baghdad is already offering to pay lavishly, with debt repayments and lucrative reconstruction contracts, for assistance in easing sanctions.

### BABIL on Need To Recognize U.S. Power

*JN2308154394 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 15 Aug 94 p 2*

[Article by Mazhar 'Arif: "Parties and Governments"]

[Text] During the past four years or so, the U.S. imperialists have achieved great successes on the international level. The flood of press articles and political analyses being published in some Third World countries in an effort to play down these successes for noble patriotic and nationalist reasons will not do, nor will they help find the right course to confront the aggressors. These countries will need to pursue fresh methods that are compatible with the present reality, not the past methods of national liberation struggle that prevailed in the period after World War II and the end of the Cold War with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the socialist camp.

In those years, the terms, expressions, and slogans of struggle, armed resistance, socialism, imminent collapse of capitalism on the international level, peaceful coexistence between capitalism and socialism, two regimes, two states, or among a group of states with different economic and political systems, and the calls for the establishment of national fronts within each state and on a world level; all these things seemed suitable and essential struggle means to confront the opposite camp of international capitalist forces and reaction. Now, however, matters have begun to take a different turn due to the large-scale military, propaganda, and political offensive being waged by capitalism. This offensive has already caused the collapse of the Soviet Union and the disgraceful retreat of nationalist, progressive, and socialist states, figures, and parties from the principles of independence and freedom and the nationalist, socialist trends of their peoples as well as their own national history in favor of capitalism in the political, economic, and intellectual fields. Hunger and deprivation have spread among the peoples of the former socialist bloc countries and of states with socialist, progressive regimes in all continents. The unity of these peoples became something of the past amid the ethnic, national, and religious conflicts which have been fostered by the United States and others. It has become difficult in such conditions and circumstances to renew the call for the old unity on the basis of history alone. The slogans of struggle, armed resistance, and national fronts have acquired new meanings. Struggle now is no longer for preserving an entire homeland, but for splitting the one homeland on the basis of sectarian, ethnic, and national minorities. National fronts and alliances have also emerged for this sake, not for the sake of local or regional reactionaries and foreign forces which are hostile to everyone.

The collapse of the socialist bloc countries as regimes and their abandonment as a union of governments and political parties has occurred at the request and with the approval and support of their own peoples due to foreign temptation and pressure. No one speaks any more about the imminent collapse of capitalism or about a world revolution. Even the slogan of peaceful coexistence between socialism and capitalism has disappeared from the international political dictionary due to all the landslides in international life we have spoken about. World capitalism has achieved its greatest successes in spreading unemployment, hunger, and civil war in several countries and causing despair in others, forcing them all to find a way out by cooperating with capitalism and submitting to its demands. Every country now seems immersed in its domestic problems with no time left to even think about other people's problems or to engage in any serious thinking. This is because whatever has happened to the others will also happen to any country one day if it does not rectify its erroneous policy and regain confidence in solidarity with other countries as a means of self-protection at least and resolving economic problems, albeit not completely, through mutual cooperation with those countries.

And now after all that has happened, is it not possible for the Third World countries and the remaining nationalist, progressive governments in this world to find new formulas to face the chaos and collapse in international life?

I have not said all this out of pessimism, especially when I and others can see a renewed awareness of the dimensions of capitalism's international conspiracy against more than one country and one people.

I do not call for going along with the current changes in the world, which are a dictate rather than a natural development in human life. This is because what is

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happening in the latter part of the 20th century is an uncommendable return to the old colonial rule that existed at the turn of this century up to its middle and also in the last century. In politics, one must not stand breathless before temporary phenomena that are bound to perish at any moment. I only call for and request that we deal with the new developments with a foresight that does not lose its definite influence with the lapse of time, no matter how long it takes, and which is also influenced by the outside environment within reasonable limits so that the loss will not be big and disastrous. The sun is always sufficient to remove the mist, and the tide is stronger and more important and profitable than the ebb. At any rate, the ebb does not last long.

Not all that is happening in the world today is bad. It has its positive points. One such important positive point, as we pointed out earlier, is the renewed spirit among many nations after they have recovered from the shock. Calculations must not be based on the words of those kind-hearted people who speak about an imminent collapse of the United States and portray the dispute among the international capitalists as a conflict portending a new era that will help nations in their national struggle.

The United States is still the leader of imperialism. It is also the biggest power in the world. We must view it as such while continuing our heroic stand against it, because the mere thinking, as some writers would advise, that the United States is about to collapse and vanish to be replaced by Germany or Japan as a world superpower in the latter part of the 20th century, will lead to erroneous calculations and confusion. This is contrary to balanced thinking that calls for making sound judgments on and interpreting situations as they are at any single time, not at all times.

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### Minister: Early Empowerment 'Could Harm' Jerusalem

*TA2408171794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] Cabinet Minister Shim'on Shetrit warns that the early empowerment for Palestinian autonomy could harm Jerusalem. At today's cabinet meeting he expressed reservations about transferring education responsibilities to the Palestinians before the measure was approved by the government.

### Economy Minister Demands Amendment to PLO Covenant

*TA2408151994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 23 Aug 94*

[Text] Economy and Planning Minister Shim'on Shetrit says, in wake of the recent statements by senior PLO members against amending the Palestinian Covenant, the government must now consider whether to stop the peace process with the PLO and delay the implementation of the agreement on early empowerment in the territories. In this interview with reporter Dick Winter, Shetrit said even if the agreement is initialed tomorrow in Cairo, it must still be approved by the cabinet:

[Begin Shetrit recording] Formally speaking, it is only initials, and the agreement will have to come for approval to the cabinet, and when it comes to the cabinet, formally, it is an open option to say: We delay the approval until we clarify all the statements that we are hearing everyday from the Palestinian side. So, formally speaking, it is an open option because it is not binding until it is approved by the cabinet.

All these issues require consideration. There has been already commitments made by our side to transfer the education powers not later than 1 September. I am very concerned by the statements that the amendment or the abolition of the Palestinian Covenant will not take place before full withdrawal of Israel from the territories. These statements are contrary to the commitments of the Palestinians towards us. The issue whether to put an ultimatum to the Arab side, to the Palestinian side, that if they do not comply with the requirement of the abolition of the Palestinian Covenant, and if they do not comply with their commitment to stop terror and to stop violence committed by Palestinians from the autonomy—whether to put it as an ultimatum, I am not yet decided. [end recording]

### IDF To Continue Providing Security in South Lebanon

*TA2408170494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Northern Command, said today that since there is no alternative force that can provide for the security of the residents of northern Israel, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is in charge of security. We will be able to reach an agreement with Lebanon only when a force is found that could guarantee the safety of our settlements as well as the rights of our partners, SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers and the residents of south Lebanon, the Northern Command commander said.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Gen. Mordekhay made the remarks while speaking with reporters in the area where IDF soldiers last night clashed with terrorists in the security zone in south Lebanon. He further said that the paratrooper force killed a terrorist last night, and killed another today.

### Minister Invited to Environment Conference in Tunis

*TA2408184694 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] Environment Minister Yosi Sarid was officially invited today to attend an international conference that will be held in Tunis on 1 November. The conference will deal with the Mediterranean environment problems. The invitation was issued by Mohamed Mlika, the Tunisian environment and land development minister. Jerusalem sources told our correspondent this is a positive change in the Tunisian diplomatic policy.

### Arab MK Seeks To Head Delegation on Visit to Baghdad

*TA2508050694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 25 Aug 94*

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, who is visiting Washington, says he wants to head a delegation of Jewish MK's of Iraqi origin and Israeli Arabs on a visit to Baghdad. Darawshah told our correspondent Arye Golan that a group of Israeli Jews of Iraqi origin who are members of the peace camp are willing to accompany him on such a visit. He added that he met with these Israelis prior to his departure to the United States. Darawshah wants to discuss the idea of the visit with Nizar Hamdun, the Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations, but he has not received an answer to his request for a meeting with the ambassador.

### Government Takes 'Dim View' of Bhutto Visit to Gaza

*TA2408185094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Excerpts] Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said this evening that she may postpone her visit of the Gaza Strip because the timing scheduled for her visit might coincide with Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with U.S. Vice President Al Gore. [passage omitted]

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Foreign Ministry sources said this evening that there is no legal difference between Bhutto's visit and visits by other foreign officials in the areas of the autonomy.

[Jerusalem Israel TV 1 in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 24 August adds: "Political sources in Jerusalem said this evening that Jerusalem takes a dim view of the one-sided move by Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who may be planning to visit the Gaza Strip at an uncertain date."]

### Beilin Comments on Bhutto Visit, Iranian Danger

*TA2508090394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 25 Aug 94*

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin says Israel will be able to decide whether to allow Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to visit Gaza, because if she wishes to come, she will have to cross through a border checkpoint controlled by Israel.

Mr. Beilin also told Qol Yisra'el that most European countries, except for Britain, maintain economic ties with Iran while ignoring the dangers emanating from the Iranian regime. Their economic interests make it difficult for Israel to explain to the Europeans the dangers involved.

Deputy Minister Beilin also cautioned that Russia is continuing to supply sophisticated weapons to all interested parties, adding that Russia is doing so because its economy depends to a large extent on its military industries.

### Standards Institute Distributes Arabic Catalogues

*TA2208125094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Aug 94 p C2*

[Report by Zohar Blumenkrantz]

[Text] The Israel Standards Institute has published a catalogue of Israeli standards in Arabic. Last week, the first four copies were sent to the Standards Institutes of Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, and Egypt. Standards Institute Director General Eli Hadar says that an additional 15 copies have been mailed to ISO, the International Standards Organization, in Geneva, which will distribute copies to Arab countries that do not have diplomatic relations with Israel.

The catalogue comprises a full list of approximately 2,000 Israeli standards, including a synopsis of each. "We decided that in view of the developments in the Middle East, we should do this in order to promote Israel's trade with the autonomy and with neighboring Arab countries," Hadar said. He added that adherence to Israeli standards will facilitate the marketing of imported products in Israel and prevent the influx of products of inferior quality and inadequate safety standards.

### Bank Hapo'alim Signs Accord With Arab Land Bank

*TA2408182894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] A cooperation agreement was signed recently between Bank Hapo'alim and the Arab Land Bank on the exchange of banking services and the training of the Egyptian bank's staff. Our correspondent Yehezqel Ya'aqobi adds that Bank Hapo'alim has reached similar agreements with the Jordan-Gulf Bank and the Commercial Bank of Palestine.

### Explosion in Bethlehem Civil Administration Compound

#### Reportedly Not 'Terrorist Attack'

*TA2308142794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 Aug 94*

[Text] An ammunition tent exploded this afternoon inside the Civil Administration compound in Bethlehem. Three soldiers were lightly injured. Our correspondent Moti Amir stresses that this was not a terrorist attack.

#### PFLP Claims Responsibility

*NC2408171394 Paris AFP in English 1554 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] Damascus, Aug 24 (AFP)—A hardline Palestinian group said Wednesday that it carried out the attack on a military post in Bethlehem on the occupied West Bank that wounded four Israeli soldiers.

Commandos from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) "launched a grenade attack on an Israeli position causing several casualties," the Damascus-based group said.

Tuesday's attack also set the building on fire and all the commandos escaped, said the PFLP, one of several groups opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Witnesses said a Palestinian threw a fragmentation grenade at soldiers in a tent next to the main military administration building in Bethlehem. Four soldiers were slightly wounded, an army spokesman said.

### Shin Bet, IDF Capture Fatah Hawks Squad

*TA2408175494 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] The Shin Bet and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] captured a Fatah Hawks' squad which operated in the Tulkarm and Qalqilyah area in recent months. The squad members are suspected of murdering a policeman

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about two months ago as well as kil.ing 10 people suspected of collaboration with Israel.

### IDF Searches for Squad Trying To Kidnap Settler

*TA2408114794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has declared Solomon's Pools and its vicinity a closed military zone and soldiers are currently searching for several fugitives suspected of attempting to kidnap a settler from Alon Shvut.

Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el reports that in his interrogation, the settler said that he had been lightly scratched by a knife when three Arab passengers in a car, including a man who spoke fluent Hebrew and wore a skullcap, attempted to kidnap him. The settler said he had managed to jump out of the car and escape.

The vehicle, an Alfa Romeo, was found abandoned near Solomon's Pools. It contained several copies of the Koran and of the Book of Psalms, as well as skullcaps and handcuffs. The security forces believe that they are looking for a terrorist squad which uses false Israeli license plates.

### IDF Raids Mosque, Confiscates Hamas Material

*TA2508122494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 25 Aug 94*

[Text] Security forces have carried out a search of the Salah al-Din Mosque in Nabulus. Inside they discovered material of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] organization aimed at inciting Palestinians, as well as uniforms and photographs of activists wanted by the Israeli authorities. Nabulus residents are accusing the army of damaging the sanctity of the mosque. For its part, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is considering what steps to take against those responsible for allowing the mosque to be used for Hamas activities.

### PLO Official Denied Entry; Another Enters Jericho

*TA2408152994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] The security forces today prevented Salih Ra'fat, a member of the PLO Central Committee and a member of the 'Abd-Rabbuh splinter of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine from entering Jericho from Jordan, via the Allenby Bridge. Security establishment sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that his entry was banned for security reasons, and that his arrival has not been coordinated with Israel at all.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 24 August reports that: "Salah al-Ta'mari, one of the most prominent PLO leaders and member of the Palestinian National Council, arrived in Jericho this afternoon. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that al-Ta'mari was allowed to enter Israel after the PLO intervened in his matter. He tried to enter Israel from Jordan some three weeks ago, but was sent back from the Allenby Bridge."]

### Kakh Member Released From Administrative Detention

*TA2408171094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] Kakh Member Ben-Tziyon Gobstein has been released from prison after serving a six-month administrative detention sentence. He was jailed after the Hebron massacre in February. Gobstein said he will continue to act to bring down the government, but using legal methods. Three other administrative detainees remain behind bars.

### IDF To Use 'Sand Bullets' in West Bank Riots

*TA2408124694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Excerpt] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is about to introduce sand bullets for riot control in Judaea and Samaria. This with the goal of reducing casualties as much as possible. Sand bullets were used at the beginning of the intifadah. [passage omitted]

### IDF Reportedly 'Evacuating' Some W. Bank Outposts

*TA2408115594 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Aug 94 p 2*

[Report by Alon Pinkas]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] began evacuating an undisclosed number of outposts in populated areas throughout Samaria, and plans to proceed with what army sources termed an "adjustment of deployment."

Last week the army evacuated an outpost near the village of Bayta on the Jerusalem-Nabulus road. An army source said the evacuation was carried out according to a decision to adjust the army's approach to road security problems. The source denied that the evacuation marked the beginning of a broader redeployment plan by IDF, as part of an "early empowerment" agreement for the territories.

The army source, a Central Command officer, emphasized that the purpose is to remove IDF outposts from heavily populated Palestinian villages and small towns in order to avoid unnecessary friction. This policy, he said, will strengthen, rather than compromise the IDF's task of securing settlements and settlers driving along roads throughout Samaria.

The head of the Samaria Regional Council, Arye 'Ofri, said yesterday that he does not object to the evacuation because the army should redeploy as it sees fit. He told

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ITIM that in the event of an increase in stonethrowing incidents originating from these villages, he will demand that the army reestablish the outposts.

### Data Provided on New Navy Missile Boat

*TA2308175094 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 23 Aug 94 p 2*

[Excerpts] Israeli Navy Ship [INS] missile boat "Kidon" [spear] was handed over to the missile boat flotilla from the Navy Shipyards two days ago. The hand-over ceremony was held in the presence of the Navy commander and senior command, representatives of the military industries, and the Navy Shipyards workers.

INS Kidon is a missile boat of the Nirit Saar-4.5 type that has been upgraded in the framework of the Navy's missile boats upgrading plan. It is replacing the Saar-4 missile boat which was launched in 1974 and participated in intensive operational duties for 18 years, until December 1992.

The construction of INS Kidon started two years ago at the Navy Shipyards. This is the first Nirit-type boat built with the new body. Like its predecessor, the current boat was planned in Israel, based on extensive experience in operating the Saar-4 missile boats. While building the body, all the equipment and systems of the old INS Kidon were upgraded by the shipyards.

The boat is 61.7 meters long, 7 meters wide, and has maximal displacement of 488 metric tons.

The boat was given to the Navy in February 1994, and during the six months since, the navy Shipyards engaged in extensive work to upgrade and expand the ship's warfare systems.

The boat is equipped with modern and progressive systems, including Gabriel missiles, Harpoon missiles, an antimissile and antiaircraft gun made by Vulcan Phalanx, and a Barak antimissile systems developed in Israel by REFA'EL [Israel Armament Authority] and the Israel Aircraft Industries.

The boat is equipped with a battle information center that was rearranged as part of the boat's body, to allow for better command and control of the surveillance, navigation, and radio systems. The sea transport systems the boat is equipped with are similar to those of its sister boats—four diesel German-made MTU engines which give the boat very good maneuverability and a speed of over 30 knots. [passage omitted]

Here is some technical data on the Nirit:

length—61.7 meters
maximal displacement—488 metric tons
maximum speed—31 knots
crew—45 soldiers and officers
four MTU engines of 4,000 horse-powers each.
Armament: anti-missile and anti-aircraft Vulcan Phalanx gun; sea-to-sea 76mm gun; six Gabriel sea-to-sea missiles; eight Harpoon sea-to-sea missiles.
Defense systems: antimissile and antiaircraft-missile system of the Barak type; an electronic warfare system-;boat, plane, and missile radar-detection system;command and control system.

### Air Force Operates Early-Warning Balloon in East

*TA2408182394 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] For three years now, the Air Force has operated an early-warning balloon for the detection of enemy planes east of Israel. The balloon, approximately the size of a Boeing plane, is cruising the sky of southern Israel and is outfitted with an advanced radar. It is made of a thin fabric filled with helium. A special Air Force unit is engaged in maintaining this balloon. Our correspondent Qobi Marinko reports that the officers responsible for operating it underwent long training in the United States.

### IAF Operates 'Special Radar' in North Against Gliders

*TA2508122394 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Aug 94 p 9*

[Report by 'Ami Ettinger]

[Text] BITA'ON HEYL HA'AVIR, the Israel Air Force's [IAF] bimonthly magazine today revealed that Israel has been using special radar along its northern border to spot terrorist hang gliders.

Last year, special radar stations were set up along the northern border to detect hang gliders. The new system was developed in the United States according to IAF specifications.

A detection unit is composed of a special radar unit mounted on a a reinforced truck. After the new system's efficacy was proved in an experiment, several hang glider detection units were stationed along the northern border. Each unit is made up of seven or eight antiaircraft personnel under the command of an officer.

The radar has the advantage of being unaffected by visibility conditions and permits an optimal sealing of the northern border to hang glider infiltration.

### Iraqi Refugees Seek Temporary Asylum in Israel

*TA2408123894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] Twenty-three Iraqi refugees in Israel have petitioned the High Court of Justice, requesting that they be released from detention and allowed to work in Israel until countries can be found to offer them political

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asylum. The Civil Rights Association represented the Iraqi refugees in making their request for temporary political asylum in Israel. Their request is based on an agreement with 12 Iraqis two years ago which enabled them to work in this country. So the Iraqis have been detained in Israel for two years. The United Nations has recognized the Iraqis as refugees after they had to flee for their lives from Iraq because of their opposition to Saddam Husayn. The Iraqis' petition argues that Israel is a signatory to the convention on refugees, and therefore is obliged to grant them asylum.

## Article Profiles New Acting Chief of Shin Bet

*TA1908151494 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 19 Aug 94 pp 10, 11*

[Article by Ari'ela Ringel-Hoffman: "The Acting Chief"]

[Text] He is 44 years old, and his kind appearance does not give away his trade. In the coming three months he will be the acting chief of the Shin Bet, which puts him in the fast lane, the best in the race for a permanent appointment to the post. This will happen when the current Shin Bet head returns from his studies, packs up his stuff and, apparently moves on to being a businessman.

His appointment was expected, albeit not self evident. He is considered a close associate of the current head. So close that last year—by chance or not—he took some flak from the shells aimed at the head. The media extensively dealt with the head and some of the affairs he was allegedly involved in—which led to the appointment of Refa'el Vardi, "the national examiner" [who recently presented the prime minister with a report on the Israeli intelligence community]. In April 1993 when Israel's Channel 1 Television carried the big report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, the acting head was not on post then, but went to the head to express his sympathy. He said he came to be with the head during his hard times. This was enough to get him marked as a runner up for the post.

When the time came to make the appointment, the Shin Bet head raised his name with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, saying this was his preferred choice. Rabin was in no hurry to decide, having at least three more months.

And so it happened that the head left for studies and the acting head was placed on the better track, but to his right he could see the man Rabin appointed deputy head of the Shin Bet. This more-prominent rival on the race track was kicking up dust, warming up, and making his intentions unmistakably clear. He was appointed deputy after Rabin was threatened. The two will run side by side in the coming three months. After years of working without a deputy—making a conscious decision not to prematurely mark a preferred candidate—now that he has left for studies, the Shin Bet head suddenly has a replacement and a deputy.

The acting head was born in Jerusalem. He is the sixth Israeli-born generation of a very respectable family whose legal business goes back several generations, with the current generation continuing the family tradition. The various family members are well situated in the Israeli establishment, some hold senior posts.

He was raised in a good, lush neighborhood with stone houses, to an aristocratic family, with a fine education, good Hebrew, and enjoying classical music. If ever the young generation rebelled, the revolt died away in this house. Both his parents did not live to see him attain the post.

After graduation he joined the Army, the Armored Corps, and found himself in an mechanized infantry unit. His friends say that he was considering a military career. The officers' school seemed like a natural first stop on the road to acting on his ambitions, but it never happened. Along with many others, he was sent to the Suez Canal war of attrition directly from the basic training camp. He was stationed in one of the northern outposts, had his share of desert dust and incessant Egyptian shellings, and was badly injured in one of those attacks, suffering wounds in the legs, hands, and abdomen, and was evacuated to a hospital in central Israel.

He spent a long time in the hospital and later a recovery period. When he was sent back to the Sinai, officers' school was no longer on the agenda. He returned to the armored brigade which later, in the Yom Kippur War, was almost completely wiped out.

He finished his military service with only stripes on his arm which, incidentally, is not unusual for the Shin Bet. A brief examination revealed that most of the past and present Shin Bet top brass, never made officers in the Army.

After ending his military service he studied political science and international relations at the university. He received a bachelors degree when international terrorism was more or less at its peak in the mid 1970's. This was the active period of the arch terrorist Carlos: Western embassies were being seized, ambassadors kidnapped, bombs exploded in major city centers, and the Japanese Red Army and the Baader Meinhof gang were frequently mentioned in the media. From Israel's point of view, the massacre of the Israeli athletes in Munich made the various security forces realign themselves.

The acting head filed for and received a position with the Foreign Ministry, and was stationed abroad with a security unit—a Foreign Ministry unit by definition, which worked under the Shin Bet. He was stationed in Europe where he spent a long time moving around European cities. Later, when he officially joined the Shin Bet, he brought with him important experience in this line of work, the right international connections, and personal acquaintance with several key Shin Bet figures who with time became central figures there. Among the

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names that can be mentioned are former Shin Bet men Peleg Raday and Re'uven Hazaq.

He is 44 years old today. If indeed he is eventually appointed Shin Bet head, he will be relatively young, even younger than the current head when he was appointed, which was considered the youngest appointment ever made to the Shin Bet.

Such an appointment would mean that an entire generation has been skipped over. The other self-proclaimed candidates for the post are older, and the fact that he was chosen does not make them feel very good. In the Shin Bet they say that the suddenly crowded corridor outside the top office does not serve the Shin Bet. Certainly not with the final appointment still waiting to be made. According to his affiliates, the acting head is a good swimmer who does not lose his head even in a pond full of sharks, and he has proved this more than once. He knows how to work with people even under pressure and in delicate and sensitive situations. He is quiet, restrained, not dragged in by provocations, not quick to rear up on his hind legs. They say that he managed to get through the major clashes in the Shin Bet without getting wet. His affiliation with the current head started in one such situation.

In the early 1980's, then Shin Bet head Avraham Shalom decided to place the acting head in intelligence work, appointing him head of a department. The appointment placed him in an area that was under the current head on the one hand, and under another director on the other hand.

The current head did not like this, to say the least. He complained to Shalom about the appointment and what it entails. Shalom did not change his mind, and the acting head stayed on in his position, under the command of another director but, according to his associates, he managed to defuse the tension. One of his friends says that he worked with his immediate supervisor while recognizing his duties to the current head. He kept the head in the picture, briefed him on the details of his work, made him feel that nothing is cooking behind his back on his own turf. His well- wishers hope that this talent of his will work in his favor today as well. They hope, but they are not certain.

The acting head arrived in the Shin Bet with two other men. They made a young trio with a lot to look forward to. Incidentally, the other two are no longer there. He was appointed head of one of the branches, the activity of which has grabbed some newspaper headlines, at a stormy and loaded time. Some in the Shin Bet, the current head included, wondered: Why him? What good could he do there of all places with his background in security work? Avraham Shalom said this is precisely the point: He is familiar with the problem from its other side, through dealing with the threat.

In the second half of the 1980's, the current head replaced Avraham Shalom. The acting head was taken from behind his desk, and given another department, and was later placed in charge of one of Israel's regions. As on several other occasions in the past, he arrived there at the peak of a very stormy period. One of the men we interviewed said: He has always been lucky. He was never dropped into a boring, dead sector.

These were the early years of the intifadah. Inevitably, what happened there seeped across the Green Line. Even though the routine working procedures were determined by his predecessors, a region man told us, the acting head introduced a new work style. A man of details, of thorough work, of expanding intelligence gathering work.

At that time he spent a year at the National Defense College. There he worked on a research that was later presented to a university to complete his masters degree.

Recently, he manned a very senior post that was significant in terms of the Shin Bet preparations for the new era, and dealt with defining tasks, moving men, and the necessary logistics. Interviewees told us that when he became acting head, he was thoroughly familiar with the works of the Shin Bet.

Contrary to past expectations, the acting head is not modelled on the current head. He is different in his specific qualifications and the added value he brings to the post.

Shin Bet men say in this context that the current head has changed direction. The acting head is not considered an Arabist. He speaks quite broken Arabic, and capturing Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] fugitives is not his main area of expertise. His associates say that this makes him the right choice, given the changing circumstances. This, apparently, is what the current head told the prime minister when he explained his choice. Interviewees—even those who want to wait and see him get through the three months—say that he is a management and organization man who made his way to the top from the bottom and knows the work. He emerged untainted from the recent affairs, and his background is relevant to the expected Shin Bet activity. He has an analytical mind, one of the interviewees said, and Rabin will like this.

There are, however, concerned voices in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Israel Police, the main consumers of the Shin Bet product. No matter what happens, they say, the main threat to the State of Israel will always come from across the border.

As a rule, some choose to describe him by using familiar military names. He is being compared to Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Northern Command. Both men are professionals, hard workers, and excellent field operators who learned the ropes first hand. The acting head supporters say that this does not yet make choosing them for the most senior post correct,

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even if in any event bitter complaints of discrimination and irrelevant considerations will be made.

It will soon become apparent that the acting head is nothing like the current head even in terms of personal temperament. He does not play the trumpet, his spouse does not and never will own a restaurant. He does socialize, but is quieter and more introspective then the current head.

Most of the politicians hardly know him. He has only recently made a first appearance before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, accompanied by the current head. According to committee members, he mainly listened. He accompanied and guided a subcommittee of that committee which toured a certain location. One of the members said that the acting head sounded coherent, well organized, and very cautious; not overwhelmed, not carried away.

One of the interviewees said that Shin Bet statistics show that one in five heads appointed is a flamboyant extrovert who makes the headlines, not necessary regarding his actual work. Isar Har'el was one, and so is the current head. Now, he said, we expect four modest and quiet heads who will do their work behind the scenes and veil themselves with the famous secrecy.

## Review of Political Affairs Articles in NEQUDA

*TA2108112294*

[Editorial Report] The following is a review of the July issue of NEQUDA—the Hebrew-language monthly magazine published by the Society for the Advancement of Settlement and Absorption in Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza Strip, and the Jordan Valley—which serves as the political organ of the Jewish settlers in the territories. This review includes summaries of all articles, reports, interviews, commentaries, and other items with a bearing on political affairs published in NEQUDA.

### CONTENTS:

1. Instead of an Editorial
2. Days of Silence
3. This is the Code of Zealotry
4. Stop Crying and Start Acting
5. A Practical Point
6. In the Harsh Light of Reality

### INSTEAD OF AN EDITORIAL

The 2,500-word article on pages 14 and 15 comprises four short essays on political affairs and a eulogy for a Gush Emunim official who died two years ago. The first essay, entitled: "From Deterrence to Decision," asserts that the huge right-wing rallies in Jerusalem on 2 July against PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to the Gaza Strip demonstrated "the organizational power and strong faith of the right-wing camp." The essay cautions however, that this display of strength was not enough. The "capitulationist" government is trying to close a deal with 'Arafat and the right-wing cannot be content merely with "the growing popular resistance" to the government's moves, but must act to convince the government that any further concessions would completely erode its power base.

The second essay, entitled: "The Camp Is Pure," castigates a group of radical settlers who shouted epithets and curses against the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) and the commander of the Central Command, stating emphatically that "our camp must remain pure."

The third short essay, entitled: "They are Coming in Spite of Everything," asserts that despite the government's building freeze in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip "the stream of families which have decided to tie their fate to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip continues unabated, albeit at a slower pace than when Ari'el Sharon was construction and housing minister."

The fourth essay, entitled: "Slackness in the North as Well," rejects "the excuses made by the defense minister and the military commanders that the security forces are 'doing all they can' to defend Israelis against terrorism," asserting that "only by shaking the political foundations, or in other words, making the government fear that additional murders could threaten its continued rule, can one force it to unleash the full power of the IDF and the other security forces." The essay goes on to assert that despite its absolute superiority over Hizballah in Lebanon, the fact is that "the IDF has adopted purely defensive tactics," which only attests to "the general weakness of the Israeli Government."

### DAYS OF SILENCE

This 3,500-word commentary by Daniyel Shalit on pages 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21 begins with a section illustrating the impossibility of any attempt to understand the Holocaust through rational criteria. The second section categorically repudiates any comparison between Zionism, IDF practices, or Israeli Government policy and Nazism. The commentary then goes on to assert that the Israeli people, by constantly questioning and even doubting the moral justifications for their actions, and thus failing to behave like "normal people," are indirectly proving that they are indeed the "chosen people."

### THIS IS THE CODE OF ZEALOTRY

A 2,500-word commentary by Yehuda 'Etzyon on pages 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30 stipulates that since the dawn of history, the Jewish people have been divided between "conformists," who make up the majority, and a minority of "zealots." The "conformists" always regard the present state of affairs as the "manifestation of God's will" and resist changes. The "conformists" will always accede to "every one of the ruler's whims, even if these clearly constitute an infraction of God's holy will." The "zealots," on the other hand, view history as a "continuous dialogue between God and his people," in which the latter are charged with implementing the Lord's word

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on earth. The "zealots" vow "to reject and circumvent any decree, obstacle, or impediment to Israel's redemption." The present "state of sin is illegitimate; it is merely a challenge and a test that we must confront." While the "conformists" accept the current Israeli Government because it received the support of a majority of the voters, the "zealots" view "democracy" as an example of "diaspora norms" and "the idolatry and humanism of Western culture." This, for the Jewish people, will precipitate a swift "decline" into accepting the "democratic laws of the Gentiles" and the "corrupt decisions of the Israeli Government." 'Etzyon urges his readers to "be zealots" and not to lose heart just because the majority of Israelis find it "easier" to be "conformists." He explains that being in the minority only adds to "the challenge" and warns against "succumbing to the temptation of the foreign logic of democracy."

## STOP CRYING AND START ACTING

This 900-word article on page 31 by Rabbi Arye Stern, the head of the Halakha Brura Institute, maintains that secular Zionism has concluded its role and a large part of the Israeli people now "yearn for a new and refreshing message from leaders calling for national renewal on the basis of Jewish tradition, while upholding the people's dignity." Stern concludes that the national-religious public enjoys "enormous power" in varied sectors, but has failed to translate that strength into tangible achievements in three major fields: political leadership, the media, and the rabbinate. Stern sees no problem in setting up "action committees" and attaining "positive results" in the last two fields within several years. As for the political arena, Stern declares that this may necessitate "a fundamental change in the established political structure." Stern proposes to either dismantle the NRP (National Religious Party) and accept secular members, or to merge all the right-wing factions under one umbrella party—anything, except maintain the status quo.

## A PRACTICAL POINT

This 3,500-word article by 'Ami'el Unger on pages 32, 33, 34, and 35 contains six short essays. The first essay attacks the Israeli left-wing for criticizing the Shamgar commission report on the 25- February massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs. Unger notes the left's "huge disappointment" with the report which, "had it brought the Jewish public in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to task, would have issued the signal for a renewed onslaught" against them. The essay asserts that Israeli media reports, especially the radio and press, are not balanced or objective, and do not grant the right wing a fair chance to express its positions.

The second essay expounds on the theme of Prime Minister Rabin as "a teflon politician" and recounts numerous instances in the past—the collapse of the defense industries, the toppling of the unity government, and the intifadah, in which Rabin was either involved with others in nefarious schemes or had himself failed on a personal level, only to emerge unscathed and with an untarnished image.

The third essay seeks to disabuse readers of the premise that "peace" with the Arab world will propel Israel into "an economic nirvana." After noting the failure of the Gulf states to end the Arab boycott and implement joint projects and the European Union's reluctance to sign a comprehensive trade agreement with Israel, Unger asserts that economic progress is achieved not through politics but through business ties, trade, and proper economic practices.

The fourth essay questions the logic of recent statements regarding Syria made by Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres. Unger does not see the connection made by the two officials between an Israeli withdrawal on the Golan Heights and regional disarmament on the one hand, and cuts in the defense budget on the other hand. Unger notes that considering the nature of his neighbors, Iran and Iraq, Syrian President al-Asad cannot relax his vigilance for a second. At the same time, Unger notes that in spite of its peace agreement with Israel, Egypt has increased its military expenditures, nor can it be trusted not to join in an Arab war against Israel.

The fifth essay cautions the Israeli Government against showing "excessive tolerance" toward Israeli Arab Knesset members who actually represent the PLO and help encourage Arab "fascism" in Israel.

The sixth essay portrays the National Religious Party as the Israeli "moral majority," which at a time of declining values can offer the public a political movement "with a firm and cohesive ideology and tradition."

## IN THE HARSH LIGHT OF REALITY

This is a 2,400-word article on pages 36, 37, and 38 by Professor Alex Lubotzky, one of the leading activists of the Tekhelet group, a group of moderate settlers established in December 1993. Lubotzky explains the strategy behind the group's attempt to minimize the damage caused by the Oslo agreement between the PLO and the Israeli Government. Since the Labor party constitutes the largest faction in the coalition, Tekhelet has conducted intensive lobbying efforts among Labor hawks, focusing its efforts on reaching a consensus regarding the need to establish "Jewish settlement blocs" in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Tekhelet has recruited experts to analyze the Oslo agreement from the legal and military aspects, reaching the conclusion that the inherent "ambivalence" in the agreement's language gives the settlers room to improve their positions "within the framework of the agreement." Tekhelet believes that the "real battle" will be over the interim agreement, which despite all assertions to the contrary, will "have a decisive influence on the form of the permanent arrangement."

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### King Husayn Receives Russian Envoy Posuvalyuk

*JN2408175094 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today received Viktor Posuvalyuk, director of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the Russian Foreign Ministry, who conveyed to his majesty greetings from the Russian leadership.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the developments in the peace process in the region.

The Russian envoy said that Moscow has welcomed and is welcoming the Washington Declaration as being an important step and part of the overall achievements of the peace process. He said that in its capacity as one of the peace sponsors, Russia will resume its efforts to give a push to and continue the peace process on all tracks, especially since the talks he held in the region call for optimism. He said that action must continue to reduce the gap between the parties on the other tracks.

### PLF Member Reportedly Makes 'Secret' Visit

*JN2408115594 Amman AL-UFUQ in Arabic 24 Aug 94 p 5*

[Text] An official of the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] has told AL-UFUQ that PLF Secretary General Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] recently made a secret visit to Jordan. The visit, which lasted several days, was made in an attempt to resolve the crisis that started in the ranks of his group in Jordan and the occupied territories against the backdrop of their position on the self-rule agreements.

In June, a number of PLF members formed the so-called "PLF defense committee," which threatened to dismiss the leadership immediately after it was formed. The committee issued a statement talking about the leadership's financial and administrative corruption at a time when the children of martyrs face poverty because their allocations have not been paid.

AL-UFUQ learned that some prominent PLF leaders residing in Jordan refused to meet with Abu-al-'Abbas while others distributed statements issued by the "defense committee" to newspapers in Amman before his arrival.

It is not clear if Abu-al-'Abbas met with any Jordanian officials or Islamic, pan-Arab, or leftist opposition leaders during his visit.

### Official on Saudi Inspection of Jordan-Bound Goods

*JN2208104194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Aug 94 pp 1, 29*

[Report by Amjad Mu'alla]

[Text] Official sources have said customs authorities at the Saudi Port of Jeddah have continued their violations of acknowledged maritime regulations by inspecting goods aboard ships at Jeddah Port waiting to be shipped to al-'Aqabah Port.

The sources noted that despite intensified high-level contacts made by official Jordanian quarters with the Saudis in order to stop the inspection of Jordan-bound goods at the Port of Jeddah, there seem to be no signs of a Saudi response to these efforts.

Commenting on the Saudi measures that have no justification, Dr. Durayd Mahasinah, director general of the al-'Aqabah Port Authority, said he hoped this measure is temporary and that it does not represent a negative development in Jordanian-Saudi trade and shipping relations.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, Dr. Mahasinah said that during the past years, Jordanian-Saudi relations were marked by much understanding and cooperation. He noted that such measures do not serve this level of relations, which Jordan has been seeking to maintain and develop in the interest of both countries.

Dr. Mahasinah said these measures by the Saudi customs authorities will harm the reputation of the Port of Jeddah because they represent a blatant violation of the regulations acknowledged by countries in the shipping field. He noted that these measures will prompt world shipping companies to divert their shipments to other sea ports in the region.

### No Change To Be Made in School Curricula on Israel

*JN2508100594 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 25 Aug 94 p 20*

["Exclusive" report]

[Excerpt] Amman—The Jordanian Government has refused to change school curricula so that they agree with the Washington Declaration, which ended the state of belligerency between Jordan and Israel. The rejection was conveyed during contacts between the Jordanian and Israeli Governments that were sponsored by the United States. The U.S. and Israeli sides stressed that Jordan must translate its decision to end the state of belligerency with Israel into reality by ending the state of hostility which is being entrenched in the minds of students by school books on history, Islamic education, and the Arabic language. [passage omitted]

### Center Finalizes Link to International Internet

*JN2408145694 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Aug 94 p 6*

[Text] Amman—Petra—The Jordanian National Information Center [JNIC] has finalized its connection to the international Internet network through the network's regional center in Egypt. It is now possible to gain access

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to the international network throughout the world by using the telephone dialup system.

Dr. Yusuf Nusayr, director of JNIC said the center had secured connectivity via the U.S. Center in Virginia to provide Electronic Mail, E-Mail, on Internet network.

In statements to the Jordanian News Agency, he added that the Jordanian Royal Scientific Society has been connected to this service, and there are experiments underway to connect the Natural Resources Authority, the Jordanian Electricity Authority, and Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centers Corporation—JEDCO. The center will work to broaden the base of the corporations benefiting from these services and upgrade the communications programs at Jordan University.

Securing this sort of connectivity, he said, marks a critical step on the part of the center toward obtaining information from different international sources to serve various sectors in Jordan and placing its services at the disposal of all quarters interested in the data field.

He said that the Internet network consists of a group of international networks aiming to facilitate access to and exchange of information via E-Mail or direct data chatting. The network is open for private corporations of universities and academic, scientific, and commercial establishments to join with other similar or specialized international networks with the purpose of expanding the base of beneficiaries from this service.

This step is a followup to the phased plans of the JNIC to join international data networks, since the center intends to ensure direct international access at high communication speeds via satellite communications in the future in cooperation with the Telecommunication Corporation.

He indicated that, in cooperation with the World Bank and the German Cooperation Institute, a specialized technical commission has been formed by the center comprising national corporations from the public and private sectors to complete the studies required for the establishment of a communications network related to data communication on the national level to facilitate data exchange and access to local and international data sources. Such a national network is a fundamental requirement of the national date sytem, he added.

## Paper Wants Compensation for al-'Aqabah 'Siege'

*JN2508075194 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Aug 94 pp 1, 21*

[Editorial: "Lifting Port of al-'Aqabah Blockade Positive Step"]

[Text] Today sees the end of four years of a merciless blockade of the Port of al-'Aqabah, slapped on by U.S.-led naval forces without any objective or legal justification. The siege, in place since the Gulf crisis erupted in 1990, was not decreed by a UN Security Council resolution. It was based on allegations made up by Western news media and intelligence services that the port was being used to breach the sanctions imposed on Iraq.

The suspension of offshore inspections of incoming and outgoing ships, and its replacement with a regime of land-based inspections agreed with Loyds International should reflect positively on activity at the port and the Jordanian economy in general. However, it will hardly make up for $1.3 billion in losses sustained by the Jordanian economy during the years of an unwarranted siege.

We believe that the United Nations and the West, particularly the United States, are now convinced that all the causes advanced to justify the siege of al-'Aqabah were absolutely groundless. Nor has it been proven that any attempt was made to violate the sanctions imposed on Iraq through the Port of al-'Aqabah. This, when other neighbors to Iraq were allowed to get away with clear breaches of the sanctions. Hence, the need for Jordan to be compensated for the losses it has been forced to sustain as a result of the Gulf crisis complications.

It should be pointed out, though, that the sanctions and other inconveniences to which Jordan has been subjected were meant to punish it for a combination of an independent pan-Arab stand toward the Gulf crisis and war, its pursuit of an Arab solution, and rejection of outside intervention. However, developments have validated Jordan's position and proven the country's peace credentials.

The partial lifting of the siege on the Port of al-'Aqabah is not a favor conferred upon us by others; it is a legitimate right. His Majesty King Husayn exerted himself regionally and internationally to bring an end to the siege and alleviate its negative consequences. His majesty's worldwide credibility contributed in no small way to the termination of the siege. His majesty's declaration a few months ago that Jordan would not rejoin the peace process before a solution was found to the blockade of the Port of al-'Aqabah was a body blow to the unjust siege. It also opened the way to expediting the peace process and creating the right environment for the Washington Declaration. In any case, Jordan wants all forms of siege and inspections, both land-based and offshore, terminated to reflect Jordan's sovereignty and take account of its compliance with Security Council resolutions.

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### Death of Hizballah's Rammal Said Linked to Higgins

*NC2508082094 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 22 Aug 94 p 8*

[Text] Well-informed sources in Tehran have told AL-SHIRA' that (former) Hizballah security official Mundhir Hasan Rammal, whose death in a car accident was announced in Tehran, was actually killed deliberately. Iranian security sources had become aware that Rammal was in communication with Arab Muslim quarters who are seen in Tehran as being close to Western circles. Rammal had gone to Iran as part of an internal security arrangement involving individuals active in underground work in Lebanon during the foreign hostages crisis.

According to the sources, Iran was afraid that Rammal might, through these Arab Muslim quarters, disclose information about the killing of U.S. Colonel William Higgins, who worked for the UN truce supervision organization. Higgins was abducted in February 1988. His death was announced in July 1989 following the Zionist enemy's abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd from Jibshit, al-Nabatiyah.

U.S. authorities at the time questioned the circumstances and date of Higgins' death and offered substantial rewards to anyone presenting information about his case. Advertisements appearing in the Arab and foreign press at the time promised large financial rewards—provided by U.S. intelligence through assumed names and affiliated organizations—to anyone providing information about the individuals involved in taking U.S. and Western hostages in Lebanon from 1986 to 1991.

### Hizballah 'Mouthpiece' Cited on Member's Death

*NC2508094894 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0930 GMT 25 Aug 94*

[Text] A Hizballah terrorist was killed this morning during terrorist operations against South Lebanese Army positions in 'Arab Salim, Sujud, and Kafr Huna.

The Voice of Light, mouthpiece of the terrorist Hizballah organization, a short time ago admitted that one of the terrorists was killed. The radio said it will reveal his name later.

### Nasrallah on 'Facing Normalization' With Israel

*NC2508064694 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Aug 94*

[Excerpts] Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah has said that the party, like other Islamic and nationalist parties, will be a partner to facing normalization with the Israeli enemy, which will be known as the State of Israel.

In an interview with Tele-Liban, his eminence said: Talking about facing normalization does not necessarily mean that this is a commitment to stopping a jihad-like resistance against Israel. And it does not mean we will give up or keep up military action. Discussion of this issue is postponed, he explained.

Nasrallah added: We could keep up military resistance while facing normalization on the other fronts.

Asked how Hizballah is preparing for normalization, the secretary general said: This issue is the subject of an inquisition by the Americans and the Israelis, as well as other intelligence organs, who want an answer to the question. We do not need to play all our cards now. Everything comes in good time. [passage omitted]

Nasrallah denied that the party has been infiltrated by Israel, noting that Israeli infiltration involves many Lebanese areas.

He pointed out that implicating Hizballah in the Buenos Aires case was a U.S.-Israeli attempt to exaggerate the size of the party and thus present it as a threat to the settlement process that should be uprooted. They are unable to get rid of or confront Hizballah as a resistance. That is why they try to pin the charge of terrorism on it, Nasrallah said.

### Hizballah Leader: Party Not Working for Iran

*NC2408171794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has taken note that after the Kawkaba operation the Lebanese Government's political stance has become clear and unequivocal in supporting the resistance in the south. He emphasized that Hizballah is not working for an Iranian plan in the international sense and that its primary goal is resisting the occupation.

In an interview with the 60-minute program that will be aired by TELE-LIBAN this evening, Nasrallah said that the resistance is Lebanon's battle. Should Lebanon submit to Israel, neither the government nor the Chamber of Deputies would survive. He expressed his belief that the Lebanese will discover soon that joining the peace talks was a mistake.

### Paper Says Iran Targeting U.S., Israeli Embassies

*TA2408135894 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Aug 94 p 5*

[News agencies report]

[Text] The Lebanese newspaper AL-DAWALIYAH claims that the Iranian authorities have asked intelligence bodies to provide them with precise information regarding Israeli and U.S. embassies around the world.

The paper bases its report on a secret U.S. State Department report, which also says Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykholeslam was the man who placed Iranian intelligence agents on diplomatic posts in Iranian embassies around the world.

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### U.S. Travel Ban Said Not Good for Peace Process

*NC2508070594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 25 Aug 94*

[Text] The ongoing Israeli siege of Yuhmur is part of the U.S.-Israeli pressure on Lebanon. Lebanon has voiced its dissatisfaction with the new U.S. stance, last night extending the travel ban to Lebanon. Official sources believe this U.S. stance does not encourage the peace process in the region in general and in Lebanon in particular.

Official sources said this U.S. position runs counter to announcements made by the U.S. Administration that it supports the development and reconstruction process in Lebanon.

### General Vows To Continue Work on Yuhmur 'Seige'

*NC2408092894 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] General Tord Furhoude, commander of the UN Interim Force in south Lebanon [UNIFIL], has said that there are no specific plans concerning the siege of Yuhmur. He affirmed that he will continue to work to lift the siege.

Furhoude was speaking after meeting Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. He pointed out that his interest in the issue is based on humanitarian principles and the region's proximity to the UNIFIL area of operation.

### 'Siege' Reportedly Lifted

*NC2508061294 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Aug 94*

[Text] The Zionist occupation forces have reopened the road to Yuhmur. At 2000 [1700 GMT] yesterday, a bulldozer and a tank, escorted by 25 Zionist soldiers, filled in the trench that was dug 33 days ago. Hence, the siege of Yuhmur is over. However, the Zionist siege of Arnun from the al-Nabatiyah direction is still continuing.

### Officials Discuss Palestinian Resettlement, Refugees

### Al-Hariri Meets With Hamas Delegates

*NC2408163494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri today received a delegation of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas. They discussed the conditions of Palestinians in Lebanon. After the meeting, head of the delegation Musa Abu-Marzuq pointed out that the issue of Palestinian refugees was discussed as part of a plan to house most of the refugees. He praised Minister Walid Junblatt's step in this direction.

The delegation then visited his eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council. After the meeting, Abu-Marzuq stressed the Palestinians' refusal to be settled.

### Fadlallah on 'International Game'

*NC2408165894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] His Eminence 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has expressed his belief that the international game aims at settling the Palestinians in Lebanon because it is the weakest Arab country and cannot practically reject this action even if it rejects the move politically.

### Junblatt on Plans for Refugee Housing

*NC2408165694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] Walid Junblatt, minister of refugee affairs, has stressed that the Palestinians will not be placed in a ghetto. He noted that there is coordination with the UN Relief and Works Agency, UNRWA, to provide housing for the Palestinians. He stated that a decision on this issue will be made within two or three weeks. He affirmed that the land on which the houses will be built has been purchased. He stressed that the alternative is the return of the Palestinians to Tall al-Za'tar, al-Dubayyah, and Jisr al-Basha [razed Palestinian refugee camps].

Junblatt made the statement after meeting at the ministry with UNRWA Bureau Director in Lebanon (Lionel Jean Paul Preson). (Preson) said that the Lebanese Government and not the UNRWA is responsible for housing the Palestinians.

### Minister Calls For Cabinet Discussion

*NC2508084694 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 25 Aug 94*

[Text] Information Minister Michel Samahah has responded to Refugee Affairs Minister Walid Junblatt by saying that any discussion of the issue of the resettlement of Palestinians can never be at the bilateral level. He called for an extraordinary cabinet session to discuss the subject.

At a press conference he held today, Samahah stressed that priority should be given to the return of displaced Lebanese citizens rather than to the settlement of Palestinians. He noted that the provision of homes for the Palestinians is up to the Lebanese Government in its entirety.

Reacting to Junblatt's campaign against him, the Phalangist Party, and Minister Sulayman Franjiyah, Samahah said: Junblatt has forgotten the qualitative shift we achieved; he wants to take us back to the sectarian phase.

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## Special Forces Commander Said Relieved of Duties

### No 'Official' Confirmation Available

*NC2408195994 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 16 Aug 94 p 8*

[Text] Nicosia—AFP—A well-informed source reported yesterday that President Hafiz al-Asad has relieved Major General 'Ali Haydar of his duties as commander of the Special Forces and has replaced him with Maj. Gen. 'Ali Habib. The source pointed out that Maj. Gen. Haydar "has since 3 August been undergoing questioning at the personal order of the Syrian president." No official confirmation of this report is available.

The source said that Maj. Gen. Haydar had committed a military disciplinary offense for which he is being questioned, after having been repeatedly warned about it. The source added that in view of his repeated offenses, he is being subjected to this disciplinary measure, which has no political background. Proof of this is that no other person, whether military or civilian, has been brought to account along with him.

The source noted that the interrogation that Maj. Gen. Haydar is undergoing is being conducted under the supervision of Major General 'Ali Duba, head of the Military Intelligence Service, who is highly trusted by al-Asad.

Maj. Gen. Haydar played a prominent role in crushing the rebellion that broke out in Hamah in February 1982 and fought the Israeli troops during their invasion of Lebanon in the same year. He is one of the main rivals of Rif'at al-Asad, brother of the Syrian president, who is reported to have attempted to seize power in 1984. Under his command, the Special Forces managed at the time to prevent the Defense Regiments loyal to Rif'at al-Asad from advancing toward Damascus.

Maj. Gen. Habib, the new commander of the 10,000-strong Special Forces, headed the Syrian troops sent to Saudi Arabia as part of the multinational force following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

### News Agency Cited on Haydar Dismissal

*NC2408195894 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 18 Aug 94 p 9*

[Text] Nicosia, AP—The COMPASS NEWS AGENCY, the Washington-based agency that specializes in Middle Eastern affairs, has confirmed what was revealed by "informed sources" recently: that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has dismissed Major General 'Ali Haydar, commander of the special units in the Syrian Army, for "disciplinary reasons." It also said that Maj. Gen. Haydar is "under investigation" without giving any more details and that he has been replaced by Maj. Gen. 'Ali Habib, commander of the Syrian forces in the western alliance against Iraq during the Gulf war.

But "other informed" sources have reported that for a long time Washington has suspected Maj. Gen. Haydar and a number of his officers of involvement in drug smuggling operations in Lebanon and of establishing links with anti-Western extremist groups active in Lebanon.

A report from the U.S. State Department to the Congress earlier this year noted that Syria was not doing enough to help combat the international drug trade. This report angered Damascus, which denied it.

The sources expressed their belief that the dismissal of Maj. Gen. 'Ali Haydar might be part of al-Asad's efforts to improve his country's image. One of these sources went to the extent of saying that the Syrian president is carrying out a purge inside the Army that involves officers who might not be happy with a possible peace agreement with Israel.

### Decision 'To Fire' Haydar Examined

*JN2408155794 Amman AL-UFUQ in Arabic 24 Aug 94 p 6*

[Unattributed analysis: "Syria...'Ali Haydar Fired. Why Now?]

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's decision to fire 'Ali Haydar, commander of the Syrian Special Forces, was not a mere routine administrative decision related to the regime, some Western media organs quoted "informed sources" in Damascus as saying.

The senior officer was one of the pillars of the ruling military establishment in Syria. Observers of the conflict within this establishment still remember that President al-Asad took the risk of exiling his brother at the beginning of the eighties. He did not do the same with Haydar, although the latter, as well as a number of other officers, made the same mistake by engaging in a power struggle during the president's illness to the point of threatening a civil war. All of them were fired after the president's recovery.

Hence, the recent decision to fire Haydar gains exceptional importance as it is connected with Syria's position toward the negotiations with Israel, observers said. 'Ali Haydar was fired, according to THE GUARDIAN, on the day Damascus announced it would receive some Jewish leaders to show its seriousness in joining the Middle East peace process.

While no precise information is available about the reasons for the firing, informed Syrian sources in Amman do not rule out that the move was closely connected with President al-Asad's endeavors to improve the image of his country in the eyes of the West, particularly after the arrest of "Carlos," who resided in Syria. The French judiciary's current investigation of "Carlos," the sources added, may reveal cooperation between him and the Syrian security officials, led by 'Ali Haydar himself.

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It is worth mentioning that two years ago, the Syrian leadership fired a large group of security officers, registered on terrorist lists in the United States, as a goodwill gesture before the convening of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid.

### Dismissal Termed 'Purely Military Matter'

*MM2508113694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Aug 94 pp1, 4*

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "'Ali Haydar in al-Mazzah Prison But No Political Dimensions to His Dismissal"]

[Text] Damascus—Informed Syrian sources have confirmed to AL-HAYAH that Major General 'Ali Haydar, former commander of the Syrian "Special Forces," has been in al-Mazzah prison for about two weeks, but they denied any connection between his imprisonment and existence of "political conflicts" in the country.

In the first Syrian confirmation of Maj. Gen. 'Ali Haydar's dismissal, the informed Syrian sources told AL-HAYAH that there were "no political conflicts or violations of the political system in the country. The constitutional and military institutions are solid and they support national unity." That is seen as a denial of claims of "a conflict" or "a plot" in Syria.

The sources stressed that the reason for the detention of Maj. Gen. Haydar and the appointment of Major General 'Ali Habib in his place was "his violation of military discipine and failure to respond to a military order more than once," but they did not give details of the order which Haydar had refused to carry out. They emphasized, however, that there is no "political" dimension to the decision made against him. They added that the "proof" of that is the fact that the order to put Haydar in prison came from General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Syrian Army. They added that nobody else was detained with him and "he has not been referred to a military tribunal, which confirms that the reason was refusal to obey a military order only." Some reports had exaggerated the issue of the imprisonment of the former commander of the "special forces" and tried to link it the discharge of some officers in the course of routine military promotions made last July.

The informed Syrian sources reaffirmed that the matter "has no political dimensions whatsoever, and is a purely military matter. Anyone who violates orders is punished under military regulations."

### Voting in Legislative Elections Reported

*JN2408203394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Excerpts] Casting of votes for the sixth legislative term of the People's Assembly ended at 2000 [1700 GMT] today and will resume at 0700 [0400 GMT] tomorrow.

Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah told SANA correspondent that Syrian voters went to the polling stations in large numbers in all cities, regions, and villages of the Syrian governorates starting early this morning to exercise their right to elect their representatives for the sixth legislative term of the People's Assembly.

The interior minister said that an atmosphere of calm, freedom, and integrity had prevailed, and added: We have not been informed of any complaint or any incident breaching security at any of the polling stations. [passage omitted]

Millions of citizens throughout Syria began going to the polls as of 0700 today in an atmosphere of freedom, integrity, and democracy, encouraged by their love for and loyalty to the leader of the nation and the homeland, the builder of modern Syria and its democratic edifice, and the maker of its victories and glories, President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

### Israeli 'Siege' on South Lebanon Villages Viewed

*JN2508064694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 Aug 94*

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary entitled "Futile Harassment," AL-THAWRAH writes: The Israeli occupation troops continue their tight military siege on the towns of Yuhmur and Arnun in southern Lebanon. The occupation troops are also trying to use all kinds of oppression and terrorism to intimidate the residents of the two towns and force them to yield to the occupation's realities and tyranny. So far, all of international and diplomatic efforts to make Tel Aviv lift its barbaric siege have failed.

AL-THAWRAH says: The siege is now more than one month old and the citizens face an acute shortage of food and medical supplies. They are now on the edge of a crisis which, if it continues, threatens serious human tragedy. Despite all this, the Rabin government has shown no mercy over the deteriorating situation in the two towns and turned a deaf ear to all international appeals to abide by resolutions and laws and stop terrorizing the innocent citizens. That government has gone even further in its arrogance and barbarism and began to escalate its savage attacks against other villages.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: Undoubtedly, Israel's logic of pressure and threats against Lebanon is the logic of expansion and aggression and not the logic of peace. It is also the logic of the usurping occupier, whose only aim is to dictate its conditions on others, blackmail them, and confiscate their territory and rights. This logic not only threatens to foil the peace process, but also threatens the entire region with serious and negative consequences.

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## India

### Bombay BJP President Shot Dead

*BK2508094394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 25 Aug 94*

[Text] The president of the Bombay BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] unit, Mr. Ramdas Nayak, along with his bodyguard, were shot dead in Bombay this morning. Two motorcycle-borne assailants pumped bullets on the car in which Mr. Nayak was traveling at Bandra. When he was rushed to the hospital, he was declared brought dead. According to the BJP central office in Delhi, the assailants ran away, abandoning the motorcycle at a distance away from the scene.

The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, assured the Rajya Sabha that the center is ready to conduct a CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] inquiry into the killing of Mr. Ramdas Nayak if the state government so desires. He described the incident as unfortunate and said the center is ready to give assistance to the Maharashtra government in the matter. He told the house during zero hour that he will write to the Maharashtra chief minister to provide security to the political leaders and noted social workers. Raising the matter, Mr. Pramod Mahajan, BJP, alleged that many political workers have been killed in the state in the past but culprits have not been apprehended. He urged the center and the state governments to check such incidents and arrest those involved in the killing of Mr. Ramdas Nayak.

The Lok Sabha speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, has directed the government to make special arrangements for the security of parliament members. He said a foolproof scheme should be evolved in consultation with him and the opposition leaders within a reasonable time. He gave the direction during zero hour when members expressed grave concern over the gruesome killing of the Bombay BJP president, Mr. Ramdas Nayak, early this morning.

The leader of the opposition, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, and the leaders of other parties condemned the assassination and said Mr. Nayak had been crusading against corruption in public life. Mr. Rajnath Shankar Shastri-Congress-I told the house that he received an anonymous letter and telephone call threatening him for fighting against corruption in eastern Uttar Pradesh. He wanted the speaker to direct the state government through the Home Ministry to provide protection to him.

### Signals of Friendship From Sri Lanka Viewed

*BK2408120194 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Commentary by Lalith Sethi]

[Text] With the new prime minister, Mrs. Chandrika Kumaratunga, taking office after her victory in the general elections in Sri Lanka last week, India looks forward to better relations with the island nation in the south and an important member of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation]. Her foreign minister, a Tamilian, Mr. Lakshman Kadirgamer, has already stated that good relations with India is a priority of his government. Four other ministers in the new government are known to be well disposed toward this country.

Mrs. Chandrika Kumaratunga as prime minister has thus sent a clear message to New Delhi for good neighborly ties. India, on its part, is keen to grasp the hand of friendship as this country has done much in the past to abide by Sri Lanka's interests even if they were not always popular within India, especially in Tamil Nadu. But, rectitude making the norm of Indian foreign policy, this country took the rough with the smooth in its stride. Mrs. Chandrika Kumaratunga, who is a highly educated person and has taken pains to understand the problems the nation faces, has set her priorities. She stands for national reconciliation and will not hesitate to extend a hand of friendship to the estranged Tamils in the north Sri Lanka and northeast.

A settlement with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] is far from easy as Sinhalese and Buddhist monks at times make noises against rapprochement. Yet, Mrs. Kumaratunga is not disheartened and could be expected to take the bull by the horn rather than allow a long festering problem linger without any effort to resolve it. She appears to have the courage and the will to try regardless of the results. A straw in the wind that gives hope of peace in Sri Lanka in the times to come is that both the Sri Lankan Army and the Tamil Tigers of the LTTE have already demonstrated their strength and fought bitter and relentless battles. They must now be somewhat tired and should be mentally prepared to go to the negotiating table rather than continue to shoot at each other. Both the government and the LTTE will have to do some hard thinking and climb down from their known positions even as the London representative of the LTTE has welcomed the new prime minister's readiness to talk to the rebels.

One favorable trend in the 16 August elections in Sri Lanka has been that the electioneering was devoid of any anti-Tamil fervor. A Sinhalese party, which accused both the United National Party of the president and the Sri Lanka Freedom Party of the new prime minister, failed to win any seat or get any sizable number of votes. This could be regarded as a signal that Sri Lankan Sinhalese or Tamils want a change away from saber rattling to an attitude of consensus, no matter how long and arduous is the road to it.

Reports from Sri Lanka suggest that most Tamils feel that Mrs. Kumaratunga is sincere. To prove its sincerity, the new government has to take some steps to build confidence and give indications to the Tamils that the government is earnest. The least expectation is better living conditions for Tamils, stopping of the colonization of Tamil areas by the Sinhalese besides lifting of the

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ban on the supply of essential goods. The government is also to allow the use of Tamil language. Despite anti-LTTE attitude of some of her political colleagues, the overall mood in Sri Lanka is for peace and it could outweigh all other considerations. Mrs. Chandrika Kumaratunga may have a wafer thin majority in the parliament with 225 seats. But, she is taking her task seriously. By keeping the ministries of Ethnic Affairs and National Integration besides Finance and Planning for herself, she has clearly sent a message to the world that she means business in bringing about economic reforms and reconciliation. Only the bold shall be brave and possibility successful. This appears to be her belief.

### Editorial Praises Rupee Convertability Decision

*BK2308113594 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 22 Aug 94 p 6*

[Editorial: "Rupee Again on Trial"]

[Text] Declaring the rupee to be fully convertible in current accounts is definitely a courageous step and indeed the greatest decision that has been taken to step up the liberalization process. Only after this declaration can the real assessment of the strength of the rupee be made in the international market. Although the acid test of its strength would be when it is made fully convertible in savings accounts also, presently this does not appear to be a possibility because of the government's extreme caution in moving toward total liberalization.

This is not the first declaration concerning convertibility of the rupee. The government is moving continuously toward total liberalization in a phased manner. So far the consequences of the decision made in this direction have been positive. The convertibility or total convertibility is directly related to the exchange rate of the rupee which, in turn, is directly related to the foreign exchange currency reserve. The prophets of doom who believed that rupee would break away if left to the whims of the market powers determining supply and demand have been proved wrong thus far. On the other hand, the rupee has gained in strength almost continuously, which is proving to be anathema to our exporters, and to boost our exports the Indian Reserve Bank is trying to intervene to stabilize the rupee exchange rate.

So far all the decisions concerning convertibility of the rupee have been mainly related to the convertibility of foreign currency into rupees. Previously, if any person earned foreign exchange, he or she was allowed to get it converted into rupees according to the fixed exchange rate of the market, but if he or she wanted to go abroad he or she could get the foreign exchange only by permission and order of the Indian Reserve Bank. However, with this fresh declaration all such restrictions have been removed. Now even without the order from the Indian Reserve Bank the authorized dealer can procure the required foreign currency. This is definitely a welcome facility for Indian citizens, but the real purpose of this fresh declaration is linked with the Nonresident Indians (NRI's) and the foreign corporate bodies. Earlier they were not allowed to take back the income on their investment to their base country. Now they are going to get this facility fully, probably in about three years. The biggest question that arises in this context is whether the facility to take back income on their investment by the foreigners and the NRI's would increase the amount of the foreign currency transferred to their base countries. It is true that the foreign currency would go out, but if, through investment, it is brought back to our country, the problem would not arise. Today India's foreign currency reserve is quite rich, but this richness has been made possible only by the "hot money." How reliable the "hot money" is may be assessed now after this new decision.

## Iran

### Rafsanjani, Azerbaijani President Discuss Karabakh

*LD2408155394 Tehran IRNA in English 1517 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, OANA-IRNA—Azeri President Geydar Aliyev on Wednesday exchanged views with President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran on the latest developments in Karabakh and other regional issues.

In a telephone conversation, Aliyev appreciated Iran's hospitality in receiving Azeri refugees and called for continuation of the humanitarian assistance to Azeri people as well as expansion of cooperation between the two countries.

According to the presidential public relations office, Rafsanjani welcomed deepening of relations between Tehran and Baku and hoped for a peaceful settlement of Baku-Yerevan conflict.

### Argentina Called On 'To Remedy' Past Allegations

*LD2408210094 Tehran IRNA in English 2027 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA—An informed source at the Foreign Ministry said here today with the becoming known of the baselessness of the accusations against Iranian citizens, Iran expects Argentina to remedy the problems of the past allegations.

He said apparently the High Court of Argentina has not accepted the report filed by Judge Juan Jose Galeano, for lack of any legal reasoning or document for justifying accusations against Iranian citizens and has sent back the file to him.

The source added Iran from the beginning had reminded the Argentine officials about the baselessness of the charges against Iranian citizens and diplomats based on

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the false statement of a fraud and under the influence of a hostile political atmosphere.

He said Iran has always emphasized that these accusations are unfounded and the prestige of a people must not be impaired. Now it is necessary that with respect to the precedents and the realistic identity and poltical grudges of the sources used by the judge the side effects of the past accusations are remedied.

The informed source believed that this action of the High Court of Argentina was a measure for safeguarding the independence and credit of the judicial branch in that country.

### U.S. Apology Said Awaited

*NC2508072694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 25 Aug 94*

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] As reported on the news, following the Argentine Supreme Court's revelation that its accusations against Iranian citizens were baseless, the Islamic Republic of Iran has asked Argentina to compensate Iran over the accusations, which have offered food for propaganda by the Zionist and arrogant mass media since the 18 July explosion in Argentina.

World leaders and officials, apart from the U.S. secretary of state and the Zionist prime minister, did not support this slanderous propaganda and were not affected by the malicious Zionist stories that were whipped up. But these baseless accusations have affected public opinion everywhere for over a month, something that can be remedied with steps by Argentina.

Argentina's judicial branch has taken the first positive step by announcing its view that there is insufficient proof to accuse the Iranian citizens, a step that has further disgraced the slanderers. This step by the Argentine judicial branch has given rise to expectations by many that the U.S. foreign policy machinery, the U.S. secretary of state in particular, should apologize. But the steps by the Argentine officials can bring the current positive process nearer to fruition.

No one doubts that the accusations against Iran were part of a process, especially a Zionist process, intended to inflict pressure on Argentine officials. Most impartial circles confirm that the new view expressed by the Argentine judicial branch is a brave step worthy of praise.

### Envoy to France Assails LE FIGARO Article

*LD2308215394 Tehran IRNA in English 1954 GMT 23 Aug 94*

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA—Iran's ambassador to France, Hamid Reza Asefi, dismissed the article published in Paris-based daily, LE FIGARO, as false and discourteous.

Sending a letter to the daily's editor, he lashed out at the article which had called Iran as an insociable country.

Asefi said that the observers are conscious that if Iran accepted the repeated appeals of the U.S. and the Zionist regime to resume relations with Iran and did not reject their friendship, the other governments would fiercely compete against one another to start relations with Iran.

The observers believe that Iran's objections to the interventionist policy of the U.S. and the Zionist regime in the region have made them resort to propaganda campaign and economic and political pressures against Iran in a bid to isolate Tehran.

Asefi said that the Islamic Republic of Iran itself decides with which countries it wants to associate.

The ambassador underlined in the letter that the Islamic Republic of Iran is the victim of terrorism and denounced the terrorism as a disgusting phenomenon of the contemporary world.

Losing a former president, a former head of supreme court, tens of members of parliament and the pilgrims of the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) was only a part of anguish that Iran has felt as a victim of terrorism. The international forums and western mass media have engaged in a conspiracy of silence by not talking about these terrorist actions, Asefi wrote.

Asefi said that Iran believed in and was committed to the principle of friendship between the nations.

He said that there is no doubt that any injustice and violation of the rights of others and especially the inauspicious terrorism will be eradicated in the world through cooperation between the nations.

### Regime's Efforts in Kordestan Termed 'Futile'

*NC2508090094 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] It is 15 years since the Islamic Republic imposed an unwanted war on the Kurdish people in Iranian Kordestan. [passage omitted]

The pretext being used by the Islamic Republic to impose and continue this unequal war does not conform with international justice and norms. The Kurdish people want their national identity to be recognized within the framework of the unity and uniformity of Iran. They want their national rights to be ensured and they want to be granted the rights that are officially recognized in the international Human Rights Declaration. These are the just demands that the antipopular clerics are using as a pretext to carry out their military expedition against Kordestan and their attacks on the people there.

The regime's officials tried to portray the demand for autonomy as a Democratic Party of Kordestan [DPK]

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demand and to allege that this party represents only a small part of the people in Kordestan. But the ensuing uniform resistance and confrontation by the people in Kordestan against the regime's savage onslaught made them realize that autonomy is something that every strata of the population in Kordestan wants and that the DPK represents most of the people in Kordestan.

But the regime's officials did not think of ways to end this war by accepting the demands of the people of Kordestan and by recognizing their just rights. From the start all the regime's efforts in solving the problem in Kordestan concentrated on ways to crush the movement in Kordestan as best they could, to make the freedom strugglers in Kordestan kneel, to crush the people in Kordestan, and to force them to ignore their rights. The antipopular regime did its best to crush the national-democratic movement in Kordestan and perpetrated every crime and deception against the defenseless people of Kordestan. [passage omitted]

After all its futile efforts in the past 15 years the regime's officials have now thought of organizing a special force to crush our people's movement, thinking that they can crush the Kurdish people's justice-seeking movement. How ignorant is the regime that it resorts again to brutality and bullying after 15 years of futile efforts to destroy our people's movement and again test its past defeated efforts instead of thinking of a fundamental solution to the problem? The people of Kordestan have not forgotten that from the outset the regime has turned Kordestan into an arena for testing the arms it inherited from the past regime. The people of Kordestan know that the regime's criminals in Kordestan were given a free hand to massacre the people; persecute freedom-seekers; bomb and shell villages and cities in Kordestan; set fire to fields and to the produce of the defenseless people; destroy villages and encroach upon lives, respect, and property; and, in general, perpetrate any crime.

But all these inhuman acts were foiled thanks to the revolutionary determination of the children of the Kurdish people. The regime could not hold back the people of Kordestan and the real children of the Kurdish people from their efforts to vindicate their rights.

So the regime's officials should be assured of the following: For 15 years the weapons inherited from the shah's era, which are in the hands of the Islamic Republic's mercenaries, the rampant behavior of the Armed Forces, the [Islamic Revolution Guards] Corps, the basijis, the Jondollah, the Sarallah, and the various other strike forces coupled with all the immoral plots by the police have failed to solve the problems and fulfill the dreams concerning the movement in Kordestan. Now too the forces that will be organized to crush the movement in Kordestan and be sent out against the Kurdish people cannot fulfill their wretched objectives.

The experiences of the past 15 years in Kordestan have shown that the Islamic Republic's policies of brutality and suppression have failed. This is crystal clear and demonstrates the Islamic Republic's political defeat in Kordestan. The people of Kordestan and their [word indistinct] party—the DPK—know that nothing the regime does can mar their determination.

## Pakistan

### Bhutto Terms Sharif Statement 'Irresponsible'

*BK2508031394 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Aug 94*

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that the government does not consider it necessary to take note of opposition leader Nawaz Sharif's irresponsible statement that Pakistan possesses the atomic bomb.

Talking to reporters in Karachi yesterday, she said the government is already preoccupied with so many other essential matters that it does not think it necessary to take cognizance of such statements. She, however, appreciated the opposition leader's concern about the eighth amendment to the Constitution and said the government and the opposition are working together to abolish the controversial constitutional amendment. Dismissing rumors about any possible change in any province, Bhutto said all provincial governments are working efficiently. About the talks with the Muhajir Qaumi Movement, she said we will have to make a distinction between the criminals and the politicians in this regard.

The prime minister said Pakistan welcomes the recent breakthrough in the Middle East peace process in the wake of the agreements signed between the Palestine Liberation Organization, Israel, and Jordan. Islamabad has also welcomed the ongoing peace talks between Syria and Israel.

About the possible recognition of Israel by Pakistan, Bhutto said it would be premature to recognize Israel at this juncture. Earlier, addressing the Sindh High Court Bar Association reception, the prime minister said her government believes in the freedom of the judiciary and is taking steps to improve its operations to meet the requirements of the present era. [passage omitted]

### Sharif Says Nuclear Program Saved by Disclosure

*BK2508112094 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 25 Aug 94 pp 1, 12*

[Text] Islamabad—Leader of the Opposition Nawaz Sharif has said his timely disclosure about Pakistan's nuclear programme has frustrated the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government's conspiracy to do away with the plan altogether.

"Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was about to compromise on the nuclear programme at a time when India was preparing to make Azad Kashmir [AJK] the target of its aggression and suppress Kashmiris struggle for their

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right to self-determination," he told a select group of newsmen at Chaudhry Nisar Ali's residence Wednesday night.

He read out a carefully-drafted statement in Urdu and entertained only a couple of questions. "I am sure the government after rolling back the nuclear programme would have said since the official stand is that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear bomb, therefore, we have not rolled back the N-plan," Nawaz suspected.

He said: "By bringing facts on the record, I have not only preempted the Indian aggression against Azad Kashmir and the government's planned rollback, but made it clear to responsible International powers that Pakistan should be treated at par with India in the world community and in the region and be accepted as a civilised and responsible power."

He said India should not be encouraged by the world powers because as a result it is trying to crush the Kashmiris' freedom movement and to impose itself on Pakistan, leading to an unprecedented destruction of the sub-continent.

"Whatever I said the other day on the nuclear issue was a well-thought out statement. During my incumbency as prime minister, our foreign secretary gave a correct statement in Washington that Pakistan has attained nuclear capability. However, I regret that the international community does not give us a proper and due treatment because we possess this capability."

Nawaz said: "I fear we are being pushed in a corner where we will be forced to accept a Camp David like accord on Kashmir, with the PPP regime's rank incompetence responsible for this abysmal state of affairs."

He listed the following facts that reinforced his view.

1) In certain sensitive areas, Pakistan is being deprived of technology that is easily accessible to India, and this is a step to strengthen the Indian military might in the region.

2) In order to weaken Pakistan's armed forces' military capabilities, the supply of sophisticated armaments including the equipment already paid for by Pakistan has been stopped. This discriminatory attitude has been meted out in the name of non-proliferation, although India not only possesses advanced nuclear capability but also a delivery system comprising missiles.

3) Pakistan is not only being weakened on the military field but isolated on the diplomatic front as well. This was evident at Geneva in March 1994 when due to the incompetence of the PPP government Pakistan was isolated internationally and no country came forward to condemn Indian human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. Now on the eve of the United Nations General Assembly session, Pakistan's isolation is again evident with the government's incompetence on Kashmir a proven fact.

4) Apart from the diplomatic and military blockage of Pakistan, economic assistance is also being suspended so that Pakistan is pushed back to backwardness. Regrettably, this design has received an impetus because of the PPP government's wrong policies.

Nawaz said it is now clear that Pakistan is being pressured under the garb of an informal military, diplomatic and economic boycott, the sole purpose of which is to ensure Pak acquiescence to a Camp David type situation. By re-opening the case of the Bombay blasts, India has unleashed an international propaganda campaign to link Pakistan to terrorist acts. Unprecedented increase in aggressive Indian acts across the Line of Control in AJK is resulting in the deaths of innocent civilians, and the Indian prime minister in his speech of August 15 even threatened Pakistan that India may annex Azad Kashmir by force.

The opposition leader told the international community that Pakistan is a repository of the ancient Islamic civilization and a responsible member of the international community. "Therefore, the world must accept Pakistan as a civilised and responsible nuclear power."

Additionally, Nawaz said the international community must also help the opposed Kashmiris in their freedom struggle. He urged the world to pressure India to accept this fundamental reality and seek a settlement in Kashmir through peaceful means.

He said the PPP government's weak-kneed and rollback approach coupled with India's hegemony is a threat to peace and stability in the entire region.

Answering a question, he said that despite being a poor country, Pakistan never transferred to any other country the nuclear technology it possesses, and thus, acted in a responsible manner.

### Foreign Minister 'Sharply' Denies Sharif Remarks

*BK2408142994 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] Pakistan has categorically denied that it possesses any nuclear weapons. Reacting sharply to the statement of the opposition leader, Mian Nawaz Sharif, that Pakistan possesses an atomic bomb, Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali termed it as totally fabrication. In an interview with PTV [Pakistan Television] representative M.Z. Sohail, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said we do not intend to make nuclear weapons.

[Begin Ali recording] The leader of the opposition, Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has yesterday in a speech made certain remarks concerning Pakistan's nuclear policy, which are based on total fabrication, which have no reality, and these remarks pertain to the fact that

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according to him and according to his information Pakistan has made nuclear bombs. I want to make this statement: I want to say it categorically and finally that Pakistan has not made nuclear weapons. Pakistan does not intend to make nuclear weapons and Pakistan does not believe in nuclear. [sentence as heard] Quite the contrary, Pakistan believes in nonproliferation in South Asia, nonproliferation all over the world, and it encourages nonproliferation regimes everywhere. So, I want to make this absolutely clear.

Why he has made the statement, why he did not make the statement when he was prime minister is up to the people to judge. My own feeling is that the leader of opposition has followed a policy of extreme confrontation with a democratically elected government and he has taken upon himself to topple the government at all costs, even if that cost means the cost of national interests. And, therefore, he had chosen for his political ends a path which is destructive for his party, it is damaging to the nation. [end recording].

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